

The Medical Letter[®]

on Drugs and Therapeutics

Volume 66

October 28, 2024

ISSUE No.
1714

IN THIS ISSUE

In Brief: Subcutaneous Ocrelizumab (*Ocrevus Zunovo*) for Multiple Sclerosisp 174

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Volume 66 (Issue 1714)

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IN BRIEF

Subcutaneous Ocrelizumab (*Ocrevus Zunovo*) for Multiple Sclerosis

Ocrevus Zunovo (Genentech), a subcutaneous (SC) formulation of the anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody ocrelizumab plus human recombinant hyaluronidase-ocsq has been approved by the FDA for treatment of primary progressive and relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS). Intravenous ocrelizumab (*Ocrevus*), which was approved for the same indications in 2017, is one of the most commonly prescribed drugs for treatment of MS. Ocrelizumab remains the only drug approved for treatment of primary progressive MS.

Pronunciation Key

Ocrelizumab: ok" re liz' ue mab
Ocrevus Zunovo: oh' creh vus zoo noh' voh

1. S Newsome et al. OCARINA II, phase III study: results of subcutaneous ocrelizumab administration in patients with multiple sclerosis. *Neurology* 2024; 102 (17_supplement_1).
2. Approximate WAC. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. October 5, 2024. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2024. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.

A CLINICAL STUDY – Approval of the new formulation was based on preliminary results of an open-label noninferiority trial (OCARINA II) in 236 patients 18-65 years old with primary progressive or relapsing MS.¹ At 12 weeks, the serum AUC (area under the concentration-time curve) of ocrelizumab following SC administration of ocrelizumab 920 mg was noninferior to that with IV administration of ocrelizumab 600 mg. Near-complete suppression of MRI lesion and relapse activity up to week 24 was achieved with both formulations and adverse effects were similar.

DOSAGE, ADMINISTRATION, AND COST – IV ocrelizumab is infused over at least 2 hours. The new formulation is injected subcutaneously in the abdomen over 10 minutes. Both IV and SC ocrelizumab are given every 6 months by a healthcare professional. Premedication with a corticosteroid and an antihistamine before each dose is recommended to reduce the risk of local and systemic reactions. The wholesale acquisition cost for one year's treatment with *Ocrevus* or *Ocrevus Zunovo* is \$78,858.²

CONCLUSION – Subcutaneous *Ocrevus Zunovo* offers a shorter and more convenient method of administration than intravenous ocrelizumab at the same cost. ■

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