

CADTH COMMON DRUG REVIEW

Patient Input

for tocilizumab (Actemra)

(Hoffmann-La Roche Limited.)

Indication: Giant cell arteritis

CADTH received patient input for this review from:

Arthritis Consumer Experts

October 17, 2017

Disclaimer: The views expressed in each submission are those of the submitting organization or individual; not necessarily the views of CADTH or of other organizations.

While CADTH formats the patient input submissions for posting, it does not edit the content of the submissions.

CADTH does use reasonable care to prevent disclosure of personal information in posted material; however, it is ultimately the submitter's responsibility to ensure no personal information is included in the submission. The name of the submitting patient group and all conflict of interest information are included in the posted patient group submission; however, the name of the author, including the name of an individual patient or caregiver submitting the patient input, are not posted.

1. About Your Patient Group

Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) is a national patient-led organization that provides science-based information, education and support programs in both official languages to people with arthritis. ACE serves consumers living with all forms of arthritis by helping them take control of their disease and improve their quality of life.

Arthritis Consumer Experts is committed to the following organizational objectives:

- To inform, educate and power people with arthritis to help them take control of their disease and improve their quality of life;
- To provide evidence-based information in reader-friendly language to people with arthritis, the public, governments and media;
- To provide research decision-making training to people with arthritis to help them participate meaningfully in research organizations and in consultations with government.

ACE's membership and program subscribers include people with arthritis, their families, their caregivers, rheumatologists, and other health professionals, elected officials, and senior government bureaucrats.

Link to website: www.jointhehealth.org

2. Information Gathering

The information was gathered through Arthritis Consumer Experts' (ACE) call for patient input issued on October 3, 2017 and day-to-day interactions with people living with arthritis and its work with clinical researchers in Canada, and through discussions with consumers and scientific members of the ACE Advisory Board. The data was gathered in Canada in October, 2017.

3. Disease Experience

3.1 How does the disease impact the patients' day-to-day life and quality of life?

The patient we interviewed has been living with giant cell arteritis (GCA) for 2 years. Because her medication therapies work for her, she is able to go to the gym 5 days a week and also do a lot of walking.

3.2 How does the disease impact the caregivers' day-to-day life and quality of life?

The patient states that her GCA does not affect her family in any way as she is able to do everything herself.

3.3 Are there any aspects of the illness that are more important to control than others?

The patient we interviewed expressed concern that it took longer than expected, or hoped, for her medication to work

4. Experiences with Currently Available Treatments

4.1 How well are patients managing their disease/condition with currently available treatments?

The patient started on 75 mg of Prednisone in March, 2015. Side effects she encountered include an insatiable appetite, face puffiness and insomnia. Currently, she is on 3 mg of Prednisone. As of April of 2017, she is on 10 mg of methotrexate. She does not have any difficulty accessing Prednisone or methotrexate.

5. Experience with Drug Under Review

The patient we interviewed has no experience with using tocilizumab (Actemra®) to treat her GCA

6. Anything Else?

The long term use of Prednisone increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, hypertension and osteoporosis. Given the scientific data of the use of tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis and the experience of the patient we interviewed, ACE positively views the addition of tocilizumab to public drug plans.

Appendix: Patient Group Conflict of Interest Declaration

- a) Regarding corporate members and joint working, sponsorship, or funding arrangements:

Over the past 12 months, ACE received grants-in-aid or research funding from:

Amgen Canada, Arthritis Research Canada, AstraZeneca Canada, Canadian Biosimilars Forum, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Celgene, Eli Lilly Canada, Hoffman-La Roche Canada Ltd., Merck Canada, Novartis, Pfizer Canada, Sandoz Canada, Sanofi Canada, St. Paul's Hospital (Vancouver), UCB Canada, and the University of British Columbia. ACE also receives unsolicited donations from its community members (people with arthritis) across Canada.

- b) Regarding those playing a significant role in compiling this submission:

This submission was expressly written by the staff of Arthritis Consumer Experts, free from advice or influence from any outside individual, group or company.