Cosentyx (secukinumab)

What is it?

Cosentyx (also known by its generic name secukinumab) is a biologic medication approved in January 2015 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis. Cosentyx is available by prescription.

How does it work?

Cosentyx binds to and inhibits a cytokine (chemical messenger) called interleukin-17A (IL-17A), which is involved in inflammatory and immune responses. There are elevated levels of IL-17A in psoriatic plaques. By inhibiting cytokines that trigger inflammation, Cosentyx interrupts the inflammatory cycle of psoriasis and which can lead to the improvement in symptoms for many people who take it.

Who can take it?

Cosentyx is prescribed for adults with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.

Who should not take it?

The safety and effectiveness of Cosentyx in people under 18 years of age has not been established. Nursing women should use caution when taking Cosentyx. The impact of Cosentyx on pregnant women or developing fetuses is not known, nor is it known if the medication passes into breast milk in nursing women. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk with your doctor.

People with a known severe allergic reaction to this treatment or its components should not take Cosentyx.

It is unknown whether older patients (ages 65 and older) respond differently to Cosentyx, due to the already increased risk of infection for this age group. No differences have been observed in clinical trials.

How is it used?

Cosentyx is given at home by an injection under the skin. The recommended dose is 300 milligrams (mg) at Weeks 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by 300 mg every 4 weeks. Each 300 mg dose is given as two subcutaneous injections of 150 mg each. For some patients, a dose of 150 mg may be acceptable. Your health care provider will determine the correct dose for your needs. Cosentyx is designed to be taken continuously to maintain improvement.

SIDEB EFFECTS

In clinical trials, the most common side effects of Cosentyx included:

- Cold symptoms
- Diarrhea
- Upper respiratory infections

Generally, these side effects were mild and did not cause patients to stop taking Cosentyx.
Can it be used with other treatments?

Drug interaction trials have not been conducted with Cosentyx. People taking Cosentyx should not receive live vaccinations but can safely receive non-live vaccinations. Talk with your health care provider about any additional medications you are taking.

Effectiveness

Psoriasis disease severity is determined by assessing the degree of redness, shedding, plaque thickness and affected body surface area, degree of itching, and the impact of psoriasis on quality of life.

In clinical trials, about 82 percent of the individuals taking 300 mg doses of Cosentyx experienced a 75 percent improvement in the severity of their psoriasis after 12 weeks.

About 65 of patients taking 300 mg doses of Cosentyx reported being clear or almost clear by 12 weeks of treatment.

Risks

Cosentyx may increase the risk of infections, like nasopharyngitis (the common cold) and upper respiratory tract infections. Caution should be exercised for patients who experience chronic infection or a history of recurrent infection.

Prior to starting treatment with Cosentyx, your doctor should test you for tuberculosis (TB) infections using either a TB skin test or chest X-ray. If a positive TB test occurs, you may be treated with medicine for TB before you begin taking Cosentyx.

There have been reports of worsening Crohn’s disease, in some cases serious, in people taking Cosentyx. People who are treated with Cosentyx and have active Crohn’s disease should be monitored closely by their health care providers.

For detailed information on side effects and safety, talk to your doctor.

Patient assistance information

Learn more about Cosentyx and ways to save on your prescription by visiting www.cosentyx.com or calling 1-844-267-3689.