Isotretinoin

Class: Acne Product, Antineoplastic Agent, Retinoic Acid Derivative

Indications: Treatment of severe recalcitrant nodular acne unresponsive to conventional therapy.

Unlabeled Use: Management of moderate degrees of treatment-resistant acne, management of acne that produces physical or psychological scarring; treatment of cutaneous T-cell lymphomas (mycosis fungoides and Sézary syndrome); prevention of squamous cell skin cancers (in high-risk patients); treatment of high-risk neuroblastoma in children

Available dosage form in the hospital: 10MG Cap, 20MG Cap

Trade Names:

Dosage:

Acne, severe recalcitrant nodular: Oral: 0.5-1 mg/kg/day in 2 divided doses for 15-20 weeks; may discontinue earlier if the total cyst count decreases by 70%. Adults with very severe disease/scarring or primarily involves the trunk may require dosage adjustment up to 2 mg/kg/day. A second course of therapy may be initiated after a period of ≥2 months off therapy. A dose of ≤0.5 mg/kg/day may be used to minimize initial flaring.

Acne, moderate (unlabeled use): Oral: 20 mg/day (~0.3-0.4 mg/kg/day) for 6 months.

Hepatic Impairment Dosing

Hepatic impairment prior to treatment: No dosage adjustment provided in the manufacturer's labeling.

Hepatotoxicity during treatment: Liver enzymes may normalize with dosage reduction or with continued treatment; discontinue if normalization does not readily occur or if hepatitis is suspected

Common side effect: Emotional instability, dry skin, conjunctivitis, back pain, fragility of skin, photoallergic reactions, hirsutism, increased sunburn susceptibility, triglycerides increased, blood glucose increased, cholesterol increased, HDL decreased, nausea, Alkaline phosphatase increased, ALT increased, AST increased, GGTP increased, LDH increased

Pregnancy Risk Factor: X