

CEDAC FINAL RECOMMENDATION on RECONSIDERATION and REASONS for RECOMMENDATION

HISTRELIN ACETATE (Vantas[®] – Paladin Labs Inc.)

Description:

Histrelin is a synthetic agonist analog of luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) that is approved for use in the palliative treatment of hormone dependent advanced carcinoma of the prostate gland (stage M1 or stage D2).

Dosage Forms:

50 mg subdermal implant that releases 50 µg per day of histrelin over a 12 month period.

Recommendation:

The Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) recommends that histrelin not be listed.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

1. The Committee considered a systematic review of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of histrelin acetate in patients with advanced prostate cancer. One 60-week, open-label RCT comparing histrelin acetate with goserelin acetate, administered as a depot injection every three months, met the inclusion criteria for the systematic review. Although this RCT was originally planned to enrol 135 patients, enrolment was prematurely terminated at 58 patients and only 41 patients completed the study. It was reported that a similar percentage of patients reached castration levels of testosterone in the histrelin acetate and goserelin acetate groups at 4 weeks (91% and 100%, respectively) and 52 weeks (100% in both groups).
2. Given the poor quality and small sample size of the RCT and the lack of any demonstrated therapeutic advantage over other funded LHRH agonists, the Committee felt that there was insufficient justification to support a recommendation to list histrelin.

Summary of Committee Considerations:

The Committee also considered the results of an uncontrolled study of histrelin acetate in 138 men with advanced prostate cancer which reported that all patients reached castration levels of testosterone between 4 and 52 weeks of the study.

The most common adverse effects of histrelin acetate are related to decreases in testosterone levels – hot flashes, impotence and reduced libido. Although the rates of these adverse effects with histrelin appear similar to other LHRH agonists, the size of the RCT limits a full assessment of histrelin.

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Histrelin acetate costs \$3,564 per year and this is similar in cost or less costly than other marketed LHRH agonists. However, there is limited experience with the histrelin acetate implant device which requires implantation by a physician trained in this procedure. Moreover, the cost of managing patients with histrelin will be higher in patients who are not maintained on therapy for the full year eg. implant removal due to intolerance.

Of Note:

1. Both published and unpublished data were reviewed and taken into consideration in making this recommendation.

Background:

CEDAC provides formulary listing recommendations to publicly funded drug plans. Recommendations are based on an evidence-based review of the medication's effectiveness and safety and an assessment of its cost-effectiveness in comparison to other available treatment options. For example, if a new medication is more expensive than other treatments, the Committee considers whether any advantages of the new medication justify the higher price. If the recommendation is not to list a drug, the Committee has concerns regarding the balance between benefit and harm for the medication, and/or concerns about whether the medication provides good value for public drug plans.

Common Drug Review