

Quick reference guide

Alitretinoin for the treatment of severe chronic hand eczema

Guidance

- 1 Alitretinoin is recommended, within its licensed indication, as a treatment option for adults with severe chronic hand eczema that has not responded to potent topical corticosteroids if the person has:
 - severe disease, as defined by the physician's global assessment (PGA) **and**
 - a dermatology life quality index (DLQI) score of 15 or more.
- 2 Alitretinoin treatment should be stopped:
 - as soon as an adequate response (hands clear or almost clear) has been achieved **or**
 - if the eczema remains severe (as defined by the PGA) at 12 weeks **or**
 - if an adequate response (hands clear or almost clear) has not been achieved by 24 weeks.
- 3 Only dermatologists, or physicians with experience in both managing severe chronic hand eczema and the use of systemic retinoids, should start and monitor treatment with alitretinoin.
- 4 When using the DLQI, healthcare professionals should take into account any physical, sensory or learning disabilities, or other communication difficulties that could affect the responses to the DLQI. In such cases, healthcare professionals should ensure that the DLQI continues to be a sufficiently accurate measure.

Implementation tools

NICE has developed tools to help organisations put this guidance into practice (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA177).

- Costing tools:
 - costing report to estimate the national savings and costs associated with implementation
 - costing template to estimate the local costs and savings involved.
- Audit support for monitoring local practice.

Further information

Ordering information

You can download the following documents from www.nice.org.uk/TA177

- A quick reference guide (this document) – the recommendations.
- 'Understanding NICE guidance' – a summary for patients and carers.
- The NICE guidance.
- Details of all the evidence that was looked at and other background information.

For printed copies of the quick reference guide or 'Understanding NICE guidance', phone NICE publications on 0845 003 7783 or email publications@nice.org.uk and quote:

- N1981 (quick reference guide)
- N1982 ('Understanding NICE guidance').

Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see www.nice.org.uk

- Tacrolimus and pimecrolimus for atopic eczema. NICE technology appraisal guidance 82 (2004). Available from www.nice.org.uk/TA82
- Frequency of application of topical corticosteroids for eczema. NICE technology appraisal guidance 81 (2004). Available from www.nice.org.uk/TA81

Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in August 2012. Information about the progress of a review will be available at www.nice.org.uk/TA177

This guidance represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. However, the guidance does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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