

INFORMATION about CGRP

What is CGRP:

Calcitonin gene related peptide (CGRP) is one of many **neuropeptides** involved in migraine. Medications have been developed that act on CGRP (monoclonal antibodies to CGRP or the CGRP receptor) to treat acute migraines and to help preventive them. This handout focuses on the **preventive use of these treatments**.

CGRP medications being developed:

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Eptinezumab | <i>(Vypeti)</i> | Protein antibody | IV monthly or quarterly |
| Fremanezumab | <i>(Ajovy)</i> | Protein antibody | SQ monthly or quarterly |
| Galcanezumab | <i>(Emgality)</i> | Protein antibody | SQ monthly |
| Erenumab | <i>(Aimovig)</i> | Receptor antibody | SQ monthly |

Efficacy and Response:

In general, these medications have been shown to reduce migraine frequency, reduce the number of days medication is needed, and improve quality of life. Benefits can be seen as early as 4 weeks, though it may take several months for you to notice the improvement. We recommend a 3-6-month trial before determining if the medication is helping.

Possible side effects from trials that have been completed:

Most patients do well on these medications. The most common side effect is redness or pain at the injection site. If this occurs, please monitor the site. You can use ice to decrease redness or swelling. Other common side effects include nausea or abdominal pain, and a flu-like reaction, like what you may have felt after receiving a vaccination. This can be managed with acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin) at the appropriate weight-based dose.

Administration of medication:

These medications are given by an injection under the skin (subcutaneous injection, SQ) or by intravenous (IV) infusion. There are **three** SQ injection types and **one** IV-type.

Monitoring schedule and testing while on medication:

No specific testing is required while on these medications. These medications have not been studied in pregnancy, and we would not recommend becoming pregnant or breastfeeding while on them. Other specific testing or recommended adjunctive treatments will be reviewed by your prescribing provider.

Insurance details available:

While these medications are FDA approved, insurance coverage is not guaranteed. We will provide your insurance company with literature to support the use of these medications. We will also advocate for medical necessity given your condition. However, we anticipate that some insurance companies may have restrictions on these medications.