BlueCross BlueShield Federal Employee Program

VALCHLOR (mechlorethamine)

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Valchlor is a topical gel that is applied directly to the skin to treat Stage 1A and 1B mycosis fungoides-type cutaneous T-cell lymphoma in patients who have received previous skin-directed treatment. The active ingredient, mechlorethamine, also known as nitrogen mustard, is an alkylating agent which inhibits rapidly proliferating cancer cells and prevents its replication (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indication: Valchlor is an alkylating drug indicated for the topical treatment of Stage IA and IB mycosis fungoides-type cutaneous T-cell lymphoma in patients who have received prior skin-directed therapy (1).

Valchlor is a cytotoxic drug and should be handled and disposed of appropriately. Valchlor exposure to mucous membranes, especially of the eyes, can cause mucosal injury which may be severe. Blindness and severe irreversible anterior eye injury may occur. If eye exposure occurs, immediate irrigation for at least 15 minutes and seek medical consultation (1).

Patients should be monitored for non-melanoma skin cancers during and after treatment with Valchlor (1).

Valchlor can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Women should be advised to avoid becoming pregnant while using Valchlor. If this drug is used during pregnancy or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, the patient should be apprised of the potential hazard to a fetus (1).

The safety and effectiveness of Valchlor in pediatric patients have not been established (1).

Summary

Valchlor is a topical alkylating agent use to treat Stage IA and IB mycosis fungoides-type cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. It is only indicated for patients who have received prior skin directed therapy. Special handling and disposal procedures must be followed in order to avoid potential mucosal or eye injury and/or secondary exposures. Patients must be monitored for

non-melanoma skin cancers during and after treatment which may occur on any area of the skin, including untreated areas (1).

Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Valchlor while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. Valchlor [package insert]. Iselin, NJ: Helsinn Pharmaceuticals US, Inc.; January 2020.
2. NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® Mechlorethamine 2024. National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Accessed on July 16, 2024.