The effectiveness and safety of rituximab (anti-CD20) in neurologic autoimmune diseases
Sinclair A, Nicolau I, Xie X, Dendukuri N, McGregor M.

Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' objectives
Myasthenia gravis (MG), neuromyelitis optica (NMO), dermatomyositis (DM), and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP) are four rare autoimmune diseases with neurological and neuromuscular manifestations. Standard treatment options are corticosteroids, immunosuppressants, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg), and plasmapheresis (PE). Rituximab, a monoclonal antibody to the leukocyte cell surface antigen CD20, is approved for the treatment of refractory rheumatoid arthritis and has been used off-label for treating patients with numerous other autoimmune diseases. The TAU was asked to review the efficacy and cost impact of the use of rituximab in the above-listed indications.

Authors' conclusions
To treat patients with rare diseases such as MG and NMO without collecting, coordinating, and publishing the results would constitute a serious waste of opportunity and resources. Accordingly, every effort should be made to enlist colleagues at associated institutions to share in a treatment and reporting protocol that would allow significant information concerning the benefits and indications for the use of rituximab to be accumulated and published.

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Address for correspondence
Technology Assessment Unit of the MUHC, Centre for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE), Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, 5252 boul. de Maisonneuve, Bureau 3F.50, Montreal, Quebec H4A 3S5 Email:
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