

SUNSHINE RHEUMATOLOGY AND ARTHRITIS CENTER

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KRYSTEXXA INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

- **Pegylated uric acid specific enzyme that converts uric acid into allantoin, a water-soluble metabolite** that is **easily excreted by the kidneys**. Uric acid goes below 0.2 after Krystexxa and the tophi- uric acid starts dissolving and going into the bloodstream from where it is again converted to allantoin and excreted in urine.
- **Infusion lasts 2 hours and is given every 2 weeks**. Expect to be in the infusion suite for 3 hours.
- **Side effects** : Anaphylaxis, Infusion reactions (Mild reactions include itching, rash, or fever. More serious reactions include: shaking, chills, low blood pressure, dizziness, breathing difficulties, and irregular heartbeat), gout flare (67%), arthralgia (10%) nausea (5%) and fatigue (5%).
- **BEFORE INFUSION STEPS**
 - **Check G6PD levels** - Hemolysis and methemoglobinemia have been reported with pegloticase in patients with G6PD deficiency.
 - **Start Methotrexate** (6 tabs once a week) for a minimum of **4 weeks before infusion to decrease incidence (87%) of infusion reaction from 31% to 4%**.
 - Cellcept/Mycophenolate (1000 mg twice a day) is another option to prevent infusion reactions.
 - **Get approval from your Insurance.**
 - **Patient Assistance for medicare advantage plans** -HealthWell Foundation if insurance does not cover 100%
 - **Start colchicine 2 weeks before infusion 0.6 mg BID to prevent gout flares**
 - **Stop Allopurinol/Febuxostat** on day of Krystexxa
- **DURING INFUSION**
 - **Premedications are given** - Loratadine and SoluMedrol (125 mg initially and then 40mg) to prevent infusion reactions.
 - Let staff know if you are having any side effects during infusion.
- **AFTER INFUSION**
 - **Uric acid blood test 2 days before infusion**: To prevent infusion reaction, uric acid blood test 2-3 days before the next infusion is used as a marker. If antibodies are created, uric acid blood tests will rise in the blood to levels above 6 and there is a risk of infusion reaction. **A second consecutive uric acid blood test level above 6 will lead to discontinuation of the infusion.**
 - **Start Prednisone 10 mg** daily if having flares with colchicine.
 - Stop colchicine and Prednisone when recommended by the doctor -usually 2-3 months after starting Krystexxa.
 - **Stopping Krystexxa**: ONCE TOPHI DISSOLVE - we can consider stopping the infusion. Can take anywhere from 6-18 months or longer.