Afamelanotide Therapeutic Cheat Sheet

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TRADE NAME[1]

- Scenesse

MECHANISM OF ACTION

- α-melanocyte–stimulating hormone is an integral regulatory protein in melanogenesis and melanocyte proliferation.[2]
- Afamelanotide is an α-melanocyte–stimulating hormone analogue that binds to the melanocortin 1 receptor in melanocytes, resulting in increased epidermal eumelanin.[1]

FDA-APPROVED FOR[1]

- Adults with erythropoietic protoporphyria (EPP)

OFF-LABEL DERMATOLOGIC USES

- Vitiligo[3-5]
- Solar urticaria[6]
- Benign familial pemphigus[7]

SUBCUTANEOUS DOSING[1]

- 16 mg implant above the anterior supra-iliac crest every 2 months

ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERATIONS

- Store in refrigerator, allow time to room temperature before administering
- Aseptic technique, with local anesthetic such as injectable lidocaine
- Illustrated guide on package insert1 + video tutorial (https://scenesse.com/hcp/administering-scenesse/)

SIDE EFFECTS[1,8,9]

- From the 3 vehicle-controlled RCTs for adults with EPP (n = 125), about 20% experienced an implant site reaction (discoloration, bruising, nodule, swelling, pruritus, expelled implant) and nausea
- Long-term observational study of 115 patients over 8 years showed no additional safety signals, with nausea as the predominant side effect
- Skin hyperpigmentation within 6 months

CONTRAINDICATIONS[1]

- Absolute contraindication to a history of hypersensitivity to afamelanotide or DL-lactide-co-glycolide (inactive ingredient)
- No drug interactions reported to date

PREGNANCY AND BREASTFEEDING[1]

- No data in pregnant women
- No adverse developmental effects observed in rat models with up to 12x the maximum recommended human dose.
- No data for presence in breast milk in humans or animal models

MONITORING

- Skin cancer screening every 6 months is recommended due to darkening of nevi and ephelides

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