

Generic: erenumab-aooe
(FDA approved 05/17/2018)

Company: Amgen and Novartis

Agent for: Migraines

Indications: Preventative migraine treatment for adults

Mechanism of Action: Aimovig™ is an antibody that works by blocking the activity of calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) receptor, which is a molecule involved in migraines.

COMPARABLE DRUGS: Aimovig™ is the first in the new class of drugs that target CGRP. Other migraine treatments were repurposed from other uses and include anticonvulsants, beta-blockers, Botox, calcium-channel blockers, and antidepressants. Cefaly™ was the first FDA-approved machine that prevents migraines in people over 18 by sending out electrical impulses that stimulate a nerve connected with migraines.

COST PER MONTH (WAC)

AIMOVIG 70 MG: \$575.00

AIMOVIG 140 MG: \$575.00

ADVANTAGES:

- First and only FDA-approved preventative migraine treatment in CGRP receptor blocker class
- Dosage is once monthly and designed for self-administration

DISADVANTAGES:

- Not known if safe to use in pregnancy or during breastfeeding
- Must be stored at room temperature for at least 30 minutes prior to administration and not in direct sunlight

MOST IMPORTANT RISKS/ADVERSE EVENTS: Safety and effectiveness has not been established in pediatric patients and clinical studies did not include sufficient numbers of geriatric patients. There is also a possibility of immunogenicity.

MOST COMMON ADVERSE EVENTS: Common side effects include constipation and injection site reactions, such as pain, redness or swelling.

USUAL DOSAGE: The recommended dose is one subcutaneous injection per month. The injection should be administered in the abdomen, thigh, or upper arm. One 70 mg/mL injection is administered via the SureClick autoinjector or prefilled syringe. No loading dose is required. Some patients may benefit from a dose of 140 mg once monthly. The 140 mg dose is administered as two consecutive injections of 70 mg each.

PRODUCT: Aimovig™ is a sterile, preservative-free, colorless to light yellow solution that is clear to opalescent. There should be no particulate matter or cloudiness. It is available in a prefilled single-dose SureClick autoinjector or syringe as a 70 mg/mL solution. It should be stored in a refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F) in the original carton. If removed from the refrigerator, it should be kept at room temperature, up to 25°C (77°F), in the original container and be used within 7 days. If Aimovig has been left at room temperature for more than 7 days, discard. Product should not be frozen or shaken.

COMMENTS: Migraines affect millions of patients in the United States. Migraines are often described as intense pain or throbbing in one area of the head. Symptoms can include nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light or sound, and visual disturbances called aura. Migraines can be triggered by stress, hormonal changes, lights, lack of food or sleep and diet. Preventative medications are taken to prevent migraines from occurring and not intended to treat an acute attack. The goals are to reduce the frequency, severity and duration of attacks, increase the responsiveness to migraine treatments, and reduce the excessive use of medications. In three clinical trials, patients treated with Aimovig™ experienced one to two fewer monthly migraine days than patients on placebo, on average. 40% of patients had a large reduction, up to 50% of better, in migraine days. The effects were shown to be sustained for up to 15 months in an extension study. In a study dedicated to difficult-to-treat populations, those with episodic migraines who failed two to four prior treatments, had a threefold higher odds of having their migraine days cut by half when taking 140 mg of Aimovig™. Competitors are currently in development along with an oral CGRP treatment.