



26th July 2011

Zoledronic acid (Aclasta®) 5mg solution for infusion

The New Therapies Subgroup discussed the above drug at a meeting on the 26th July 2011. The recommendation of this subgroup is as follows:*

The New Therapies Subgroup of the GMMM considered the therapeutic use of zoledronic acid 5 mg solution for annual infusion for the treatment of post-menopausal osteoporosis.

The group recommend that zoledronic acid 5mg solution for infusion may be considered as an option only for patients intolerant of oral bisphosphonate drugs, or with established compliance or swallowing problems.

The group noted the relatively high incidence of acute-phase reactions with initial doses of zoledronic acid and therefore recommend that, if indicated, it is initially administered by a physician with experience in the use of IV bisphosphonate drugs, and in an environment where patients can be monitored and observed as appropriate.

In common with other bisphosphonate drugs used in the treatment of osteoporosis, concomitant calcium and vitamin D supplements are recommended and concordance with the regimen is encouraged particularly in the period prior to receiving the infusion and for up to two weeks after.

Prescribers are reminded that once-weekly oral alendronate is the most cost-effective bisphosphonate and therefore remains the first-line choice for treatment of post-menopausal osteoporosis.

Review date: July 2016

* Unless superseded by NICE guidance or substantial and significant new evidence becomes available.

▼ Newly marketed drugs and vaccines are intensively monitored for a minimum of two years, in order to confirm the risk / benefit profile of the product. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to report all suspected adverse drug reactions.