ORENCIA PLUS closure

The ORENCIA Plus program will be closing on October 31, 2019. We are proud to have been able to provide this service for 11 years for over 4,500 patients, with approximately 55,000 home visits all over Australia.

To continue treatment on ORENCIA[1], there are a number of alternative options for patients currently enrolled in the ORENCIA PLUS program including:

- Patients with private health insurance may be able to utilise alternative home infusion services (these differ by state)
- Attend an alternative local infusion centre
- Transition to ORENCIA Subcutaneous (safety syringe or auto-injector) which patients can administer themselves. Both injection devices are designed for easy use by patients or their caregiver.

Please contact your Doctor who will be able to advise and find the best solution for you.

Q&A

Q1. What is the difference between subcutaneous and intravenous ORENCIA treatment?

A: Subcutaneous ORENCIA is given as an injection under the skin, whereas intravenous ORENCIA is given as an infusion into the vein over 30 minutes.

Q2. Is the subcutaneous version of ORENCIA as effective and safe as the intravenous version?

A: Yes. Both formulation have shown similar efficacy and safety in a clinical trial specifically designed to compare the two formulations[2]. Please talk to your Doctor who can discuss this with you.

Q3. Is the SQ formulation effective in patients over 60 kilos?

A: Yes. Both types of ORENCIA work regardless of body weight[3,4]. Please talk to your Doctor who can discuss this with you.

Q4. How do I travel while being on ORENCIA?

A: ORENCIA should be stored between 2°C to 8°C. Do not freeze it. The ORENCIA patient kit available to all patients on ORENCIA contains a travel cooler bag and an ice pack. Please note that the travel cooler bag cannot guarantee the recommended storage temperature between 2°C to 8°C. Please refrigerate your ORENCIA as soon as you reach your destination.

Q5. Who can give me more information?

A: *Please contact your doctor if you have any questions about your treatment or condition.*

References:

1. ORENCIA® Approved Consumer Medicine Information. July 2018
2. Genovese MC, Covarrubias A, Leon G, et al. Subcutaneous abatacept versus intravenous abatacept: A phase IIIb non-inferiority study in patients with an inadequate response to methotrexate. Arthritis Rheum.2011;63(10):2854–2864.
3. D'Agostino MA, Alten R, Mysler E, et al. Body Mass Index Does Not Affect Response to Subcutaneous or Intravenous Abatacept in Patients With Rheumatoid Arthritis, Poster [1583) presented at The American College of

Rheumatology/Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals (ACR/ARHP) Annual Meeting; November 11-16, 2016; Washington DC.

4. Mariette X, Alten R, Nüßlein HG, et al. The effect of body mass index on clinical response to abatacept as a first-line biologic for rheumatoid arthritis: 6-month results from the 2-year, observational, prospective ACTION study. Joint Bone Spine. 2017; 84(5):571-576.

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