EPOGEN® (Epoetin alfa) Hyporesponsiveness and Dosing Algorithm

Suspected hyporesponse to EPOGEN®

Assess conditions known to affect erythropoiesis:

- Inadequate EPOGEN® dose
  - Suspect if:
    - Dose <50-100 U/kg TIW
    - Missed/held doses
    - Frequent dose changes
    - Hospitalization

- Iron deficiency
  - Suspect if:
    - Ferritin <100 ng/mL
    - Tsat <20% (or facility targets)
    - Known excess blood loss from GI source, phlebotomy, dialysis, or other
    - Positive occult test

- Blood loss
  - Suspect if:
    - Known excess blood loss from GI source, phlebotomy, dialysis, or other
    - Positive occult test

- Infection or inflammation
  - Suspect if:
    - Ferritin ↑ while Tsat ↓
    - WBC count
    - Known acute or chronic condition

- Secondary HPT
  - Suspect if:
    - Documented disease
    - Bone changes
    - PTH levels >250 to 300 pg/mL

- Aluminum toxicity
  - Suspect if:
    - MCV < 80 µm³
    - ↑ serum Al values
    - Positive DFO challenge
    - Positive bone biopsy

- Coexisting medical condition
  - Suspect if:
    - Factors present causing anemia
      - malignancies
      - hematologic disorders
      - AIDS
      - pregnancy

- Hemolysis
  - Suspect if:
    - Fall in Hb (Hct) after stabilized
    - ↑ Haptoglobin
    - ↑ LDH

- Protein energy malnutrition
  - Suspect if:
    - Protein intake below recommended level
      - B12 <150 pg/mL
      - Folic acid <5 ng/mL
      - B6 <5 ng/mL

- Vitamin deficiency
  - Suspect if:


Etiology detected

- Not Correctable
- Correctable
- Correct etiology
- Hb (Hct) below target range
  - Hb (Hct) increases to target range

Monitor response:
- Assess for conditions affecting erythropoietic response
- Monitor trends in Hb (Hct), iron, and other parameters
- Maintain Hb (Hct) in target range

Adjust EPOGEN® dose progressively in increments of 10% to 25%, if appropriate. (Maintenance doses may range from 12.5 to 525 U/Kg three times a week.)

NKF/K/DOQI recommends a target Hb (Hct) range of 11 to 12 g/dL (33% to 36%). The EPOGEN® (Epoetin alfa) package insert recommends a target Hb (Hct) range of 10 to 12 g/dL (30% to 36%).
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