

ADMINISTRATION OF INTRAVENOUS EDARAVONE FOR AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS), AT HOME.

Authors

Julie Adams Director - Governance, Dan Corrigan Pharmacy Lead and Stacy McGreal WA/SA Nures Lead



BACKGROUND

ALS is a neurodegenerative condition that causes progressive muscle weakness. Edaravone is a free radical scavenger which reduces oxidative stress, however, its mechanism of action in ALS is unknown. Two 6-month, randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind studies showed edaravone slowed functional decline in people with ALS. Edaravone was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in January 2023 and in December 2024 received agreement for listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). It is awaiting addition to the PBS but is available through the TGA Special Access Scheme.

AIM

To evaluate the safety of intravenous edaravone administered to patients with ALS referred to a national home infusion service.



METHOD

Electronic health records of patients referred to a national home infusion service were reviewed. Data was collated on demographics, infusional-related reactions (iRRs), use of hypersensitivity-anaphylaxis standard orders (HASO), and transfer to hospital.

RESULTS

Three patients received 225 infusions of intravenous edaravone at home, at a dose of 60 mg once daily over 60 minutes for 10 days out of 14-day period, followed by a 14-day drug-free period. Patient AC, 57yo F received 31 doses, via a PICC line, with mild flushing post infusion. Patient DW, 38 yo M received 184 doses, via a port with no iRRs. Patient DH, 57 yo M received 10 doses, via an IV cannula with no iRRs. No patient required use of HASO or was transferred to hospital.



CONCLUSION

Although the PBS indication is for patients who are independent in activities of daily living and where treatment is initiated within 2-years of disease onset, treatment at home alleviates the stress of travelling to hospital for treatment. This is particularly important given the intensive treatment schedule required. Edaravone infusions at home are safe.

REFERENCES

Radicava Product information, Teva
<https://www.tga.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-08/auspar-radicava-240812-pi.pdf>, Accessed March 2025