

solution for infusion or preparing a reduced dose of 4 mg/100 mL solution for infusion for patients with renal impairment, dilute requisite dose according to product literature.

- ▶ When used for Paget's disease of bone or Osteoporosis (including corticosteroid-induced osteoporosis) in men and postmenopausal women **For intravenous infusion**, give via a vented infusion line over at least 15 minutes.

- **PATIENT AND CARER ADVICE** A patient reminder card should be provided (risk of osteonecrosis of the jaw).

- **NATIONAL FUNDING/ACCESS DECISIONS**

NICE decisions

- ▶ **Bisphosphonates for treating osteoporosis (updated July 2019)** NICE TA464

This technology appraisal guidance should be applied clinically in conjunction with:

- NICE guideline on osteoporosis (CG146), which defines who is eligible for osteoporotic fracture risk assessment.
- NICE quality standard on osteoporosis (QS149), which defines the clinical intervention thresholds for the 10-year fracture probability of a major osteoporotic fracture, in those patients who have undergone fracture risk assessment.

Zoledronic acid is recommended as an option for treating osteoporosis in patients:

- who are eligible for risk assessment as defined in the full NICE guideline and quality standard on osteoporosis, **and**
- who have been assessed as being at higher risk of osteoporotic fragility fracture using the methods recommended in the full NICE guideline and quality standard on osteoporosis, **and**
- when bisphosphonate treatment is appropriate, taking into account their risk of fracture, their risk of adverse effects from bisphosphonates, and their clinical circumstances and preferences.

Patients whose treatment was started within the NHS before this guidance was published should have the option to continue treatment, without change to their funding arrangements, until they and their NHS clinician consider it appropriate to stop.

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta464

Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) decisions

SMC No. 29/02

The *Scottish Medicines Consortium* has advised (May 2003) that zoledronic acid (*Zometa*®) is accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland for the prevention of skeletal related events in patients with breast cancer and multiple myeloma if prescribed by an oncologist.

SMC No. 317/06

The *Scottish Medicines Consortium* has advised (October 2006) that zoledronic acid (*Aclasta*®) is accepted for use within NHS Scotland for the treatment of Paget's disease of bone in patients for whom the use of a bisphosphonate is appropriate.

SMC No. 447/08

The *Scottish Medicines Consortium* has advised (March 2008) that zoledronic acid (*Aclasta*®) is accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland for the treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women in those for whom oral treatment options for osteoporosis are inappropriate, when initiated by a specialist.

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug.

Infusion

- ▶ **Zoledronic acid (Non-proprietary)**

Zoledronic acid (as Zoledronic acid monohydrate) 40 microgram per 1 ml Zoledronic acid 4mg/100ml infusion bags | 1 bag [PoM] £174.14 (Hospital only) | 1 bag [PoM] £150.00

Zoledronic acid (as Zoledronic acid monohydrate) 50 microgram per 1 ml Zoledronic acid 5mg/100ml infusion bags | 1 bag [PoM] £217.68 (Hospital only)

- ▶ **Aclasta** (Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd)

Zoledronic acid (as Zoledronic acid monohydrate) 50 microgram per 1 ml Aclasta 5mg/100ml infusion bottles | 1 bottle [PoM] £253.38

- ▶ **Zerlinda** (Actavis UK Ltd)

Zoledronic acid (as Zoledronic acid monohydrate) 40 microgram per 1 ml Zerlinda 4mg/100ml infusion bags | 1 bag [PoM] £150.00 (Hospital only)

- ▶ **Zometa** (Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd)

Zoledronic acid (as Zoledronic acid monohydrate) 40 microgram per 1 ml Zometa 4mg/100ml infusion bottles | 1 bottle [PoM] £174.14

Solution for infusion

- ▶ **Zoledronic acid (Non-proprietary)**

Zoledronic acid (as Zoledronic acid monohydrate) 40 microgram per 1 ml Zoledronic acid 4mg/100ml solution for infusion vials | 1 vial [PoM] £135.00 (Hospital only) | 1 vial [PoM] £174.14

Zoledronic acid (as Zoledronic acid monohydrate) 50 microgram per 1 ml Zoledronic acid 5mg/100ml solution for infusion vials | 1 vial [PoM] £135.00 (Hospital only) | 1 vial [PoM] £253.58-£266.72

Zoledronic acid (as Zoledronic acid monohydrate)

800 microgram per 1 ml Zoledronic acid 4mg/5ml concentrate for solution for infusion vials | 1 vial [PoM] £165.43-£174.14 (Hospital only) | 1 vial [PoM] £148.04-£233.40 | 5 vial [PoM] £25.00 (Hospital only)

Zoledronic acid 4mg/5ml solution for infusion vials | 1 vial [PoM] £91.95

- ▶ **Zometa** (Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd)

Zoledronic acid (as Zoledronic acid monohydrate)

800 microgram per 1 ml Zometa 4mg/5ml solution for infusion vials | 1 vial [PoM] £174.14

CALCIUM REGULATING DRUGS > BONE RESORPTION INHIBITORS

Calcitonin (salmon)

21-Jan-2020

(Salcatonin)

- **INDICATIONS AND DOSE**

Hypercalcaemia of malignancy

- ▶ BY SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION, OR BY INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION

- ▶ **Adult:** 100 units every 6–8 hours (max. per dose 400 units every 6–8 hours), adjusted according to response

- ▶ BY INTRAVENOUS INFUSION

- ▶ **Adult:** Up to 10 units/kg, in severe or emergency cases, to be administered by slow intravenous infusion over at least 6 hours

Paget's disease of bone

- ▶ BY SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION, OR BY INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION

- ▶ **Adult:** 100 units daily, adjusted according to response for maximum 3 months (6 months in exceptional circumstances), a minimum dosage regimen of 50 units three times a week has been shown to achieve clinical and biochemical improvement

Prevention of acute bone loss due to sudden immobility

- ▶ BY SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION, OR BY INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION

- ▶ **Adult:** Initially 100 units daily in 1–2 divided doses, then reduced to 50 units daily at the start of mobilisation, usual duration of treatment is 2 weeks; maximum 4 weeks

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** Hypocalcaemia
- **CAUTIONS** History of allergy (skin test advised) · risk of malignancy—avoid prolonged use (use lowest effective dose for shortest possible time)
- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: calcitonins