

Ciclosporin Eye Preparations

Recommendation

Ciclosporin 0.1% (Ikervis) eye drops have been approved for use in East Kent following specialist initiation for the treatment of dry eye disease where other treatments such as artificial tears have not been successful in accordance with NICE TA 369.

Unlicensed preparations of ciclosporin, including ciclosporin eye ointment have not been commissioned for use in East Kent and are not recommended for prescribing in primary care.

GPs are advised to refer requests for prescribing of unlicensed products back to the initiating specialist for continuation.

Ciclosporin 0.1% eye drops (Ikervis) have been approved by NICE for treatment of dry eye disease that has not improved despite treatment with artificial tears. EKPG recommend that ciclosporin 0.1% eye drops are initiated by a specialist but may be continued in primary care.

A number of unlicensed preparations are available such as ciclosporin (0.1%) eye ointment and alternative strengths of eye drops. These are only available as unlicensed specials. EKPG recommend that unlicensed preparations of ciclosporin are NOT prescribed in primary care.

It is recommended that patients currently being prescribed an unlicensed ciclosporin preparation are reviewed with the aim of switching to the licensed ciclosporin 0.1% eye drops. However it may not be appropriate to switch all patients to the licensed preparation and some may need to continue on an unlicensed preparation.

It is recommended that no new patients should be prescribed an unlicensed preparation in primary care in the future.

References

1. NICE TA 369 – Ciclosporin 0.1% eye drops for treatment of dry eye disease that has not improved despite treatment with artificial tears
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA369/chapter/1-guidance>

Approved by: East Kent Prescribing Group (Representing Ashford CCG, Canterbury and Coastal CCG, South Kent Coast CCG and Thanet CCG)

Date: 9th May 2016

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