



Professor Andrew Wilson
Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)
MDP 952, GPO Box 9848 Canberra, ACT 2601

8 September 2020

Dear Professor Wilson,

Re: Dupilumab (Dupixent®) for severe, uncontrolled asthma

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia supports the use of dupilumab for severe and uncontrolled asthma.

In Australia there are some 2.7 million people diagnosed with asthma. It is estimated that three to 10 percent of these people have severe asthma¹ despite having appropriate health professional care and being compliant with high dose prescribed medications. It is important that both health professionals and individuals with asthma have choices when it comes to available treatments. As dupilumab targets a different part of the immune response to existing asthma biologics, it is important that dupilumab be an option for those with allergic asthma that is severe and uncontrolled. Australians need to have access to the best medication suited to their condition.

Asthma is also one of the most significant risk factors for death from food allergy anaphylaxis. Various studies have shown that 69 to 100 percent of people who died from food allergy anaphylaxis were found to have pre-existing asthma. In patients with severe asthma, the risk for life-threatening bronchospasm during nut associated anaphylaxis was increased 6.8 times, while the relative risk was only 2.7 times for those with mild asthma.²

Severe and uncontrolled asthma has a major impact on quality of life. For those with this condition, it is often difficult to do normal everyday activities including school, work and sport. Hospital admissions for asthma exacerbations are common. It is a frightening condition for the individual and those who care for them. School and work days are lost and mental health is impacted.

Biologics (like dupilumab) have shown to be successful in managing severe asthma and hence improving patient quality of life. Individuals with severe uncontrolled asthma need an option that offers them an opportunity to live a normal life. For those who have severe asthma and are at-risk of anaphylaxis this drug is even more important as it may reduce their risk of death from both asthma and anaphylaxis. The ability to choose which device is best suited to an individual is what A&AA aspires to as the advocate for those living with the risk of anaphylaxis.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about the Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia submission supporting the registration and PBS listing of Dupixent® for severe, uncontrolled asthma.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Said AM
Chief Executive Officer
Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia – Your trusted charity for allergy support

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