

BRIEF SUMMARY

For Intravenous Infusion Only

DESCRIPTION

Adenosine is an endogenous nucleoside occurring in all cells of the body. It is chemically 6-amino-9-beta-D-ribofuranosyl-9-H-purine. Adenosine is a white crystalline powder. It is soluble in water and practically insoluble in alcohol. Solubility increases by warming and lowering the pH of the solution. Each Adenoscan vial contains a sterile, non-pyrogenic solution of adenosine 3 mg/mL and sodium chloride 9 mg/mL in Water for Injection, q.s. The pH of the solution is between 4.5 and 7.5.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE:

Intravenous Adenoscan is indicated as an adjunct to thallium-201 myocardial perfusion scintigraphy in patients unable to exercise adequately.

(See WARNINGS).

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Intravenous Adenoscan should not be administered to individuals with:

1. Second- or third-degree AV block (except in patients with a functioning artificial pacemaker).
2. Sinus node disease, such as sick sinus syndrome or symptomatic bradycardia (except in patients with a functioning artificial pacemaker).
3. Known or suspected bronchoconstrictive or bronchospastic lung disease (e.g., asthma).
4. Known hypersensitivity to adenosine.

WARNINGS:

Fatal Cardiac Arrest, Life Threatening Ventricular Arrhythmias, and Myocardial Infarction.

Fatal cardiac arrest, sustained ventricular tachycardia (requiring resuscitation), and nonfatal myocardial infarction have been reported coincident with Adenoscan infusion. Patients with unstable angina may be at greater risk. Appropriate resuscitative measures should be available.

Sinoatrial and Atrioventricular Nodal Block

Adenoscan exerts a direct depressant effect on the SA and AV nodes and has the potential to cause first-, second- or third-degree AV block, or sinus bradycardia. Approximately 6.3% of patients develop AV block with Adenoscan, including first-degree (2.9%), second-degree (2.6%) and third-degree (0.8%) heart block. All episodes of AV block have been asymptomatic, transient, and did not require intervention. Adenoscan can cause sinus bradycardia. Adenoscan should be used with caution in patients with pre-existing first-degree AV block or bundle branch block and should be avoided in patients with high-grade AV block or sinus node dysfunction (except in patients with a functioning artificial pacemaker). Adenoscan should be discontinued in any patient who develops persistent or symptomatic high-grade AV block. Sinus pause has been rarely observed with adenosine infusions.

Hypotension

Adenoscan is a potent peripheral vasodilator and can cause significant hypotension. Patients with an intact baroreceptor reflex mechanism are able to maintain blood pressure and tissue perfusion in response to Adenoscan by increasing heart rate and cardiac output. However, Adenoscan should be used with caution in patients with autonomic dysfunction, stenotic valvular heart disease, pericarditis or pericardial effusions, stenotic carotid artery disease with cerebrovascular insufficiency, or uncorrected hypovolemia, due to the risk of hypotensive complications in these patients. Adenoscan should be discontinued in any patient who develops persistent or symptomatic hypotension.

Hypertension

Increases in systolic and diastolic pressure have been observed (as great as 140 mm Hg systolic in one case) concomitant with Adenoscan infusion; most increases resolved spontaneously within several minutes, but in some cases, hypertension lasted for several hours.

Bronchoconstriction

Adenoscan is a respiratory stimulant (probably through activation of carotid body chemoreceptors) and intravenous administration in man has been shown to increase minute ventilation (Ve) and reduce arterial PCO₂, causing respiratory alkalosis. Approximately 28% of patients experience breathlessness (dyspnea) or an urge to breathe deeply with Adenoscan. These respiratory complaints are transient and only rarely require intervention.

Adenosine administered by inhalation has been reported to cause bronchoconstriction in asthmatic patients, presumably due to mast cell degranulation and histamine release. These effects have not been observed in normal subjects. Adenoscan has been administered to a limited number of patients with asthma and mild to moderate exacerbation of their symptoms has been reported. Respiratory compromise has occurred during adenosine infusion in patients with obstructive pulmonary disease. Adenoscan should be used with caution in patients with obstructive lung disease not associated with bronchoconstriction (e.g., emphysema, bronchitis, etc.) and should be avoided in patients with bronchoconstriction or bronchospasm (e.g., asthma). Adenoscan should be discontinued in any patient who develops severe respiratory difficulties.

PRECAUTIONS:

Drug Interactions

Intravenous Adenoscan has been given with other cardioactive drugs (such as beta adrenergic blocking agents, cardiac glycosides, and calcium channel blockers) without apparent adverse interactions, but its effectiveness with these agents has not been systematically evaluated. Because of the potential for additive or synergistic depressant effects on the SA and AV nodes, however, Adenoscan should be used with caution in the presence of these agents. The vasoactive effects of Adenoscan are inhibited by adenosine receptor antagonists, such as methylxanthines (e.g., caffeine and theophylline). The safety and efficacy of Adenoscan in the presence of these agents has not been systematically evaluated. The vasoactive effects of Adenoscan are potentiated by nucleoside transport inhibitors, such as dipyridamole. The safety and efficacy of Adenoscan in the presence of dipyridamole has not been systematically evaluated. Whenever possible, drugs that might inhibit or augment the effects of adenosine should be withheld for at least five half-lives prior to the use of Adenoscan.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Studies in animals have not been performed to evaluate the carcinogenic potential of Adenoscan. Adenosine was negative for genotoxic potential in the Salmonella (Ames Test) and Mammalian Microsome Assay.

Adenosine, however, like other nucleosides at millimolar concentrations present for several doubling times of cells in culture, is known to produce a variety of chromosomal alterations. Fertility studies in animals have not been conducted with adenosine.

Pregnancy Category C

Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with adenosine; nor have studies been performed in pregnant women. Because it is not known whether Adenoscan can cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women, Adenoscan should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of Adenoscan in patients less than 18 years of age have not been established.

Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of Adenoscan did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged younger than 65 years to determine whether they respond differently. Other reported experience has not revealed clinically relevant differences of the response of elderly in comparison to younger patients. Greater sensitivity of some older individuals, however, cannot be ruled out.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

The following reactions with an incidence of at least 1% were reported with intravenous Adenoscan among 1421 patients enrolled in controlled and uncontrolled U.S. clinical trials. Despite the short half-life of adenosine, 10.6% of the side effects occurred not with the infusion of Adenoscan but several hours after the infusion terminated. Also, 8.4% of the side effects that began coincident with the infusion persisted for up to 24 hours after the infusion was complete. In many cases, it is not possible to know whether these late adverse events are the result of Adenoscan infusion.

Flushing	44%	Gastrointestinal discomfort	13%	Second-degree AV block	3%
Chest discomfort	40%	Lightheadedness/dizziness	12%	Paresthesia	2%
Dyspnea or urge to breathe deeply	28%	Upper extremity discomfort	4%	Hypotension	2%
Headache	18%	ST segment depression	3%	Nervousness	2%
Throat, neck or jaw discomfort	15%	First-degree AV block	3%	Arrhythmias	1%

Adverse experiences of any severity reported in less than 1% of patients include:

Body as a Whole: back discomfort; lower extremity discomfort; weakness.

Cardiovascular System: nonfatal myocardial infarction; life-threatening ventricular arrhythmia; third-degree AV block; bradycardia; palpitation; sinus exit block; sinus pause; sweating; T-wave changes, hypertension (systolic blood pressure > 200 mm Hg).

Central Nervous System: drowsiness; emotional instability; tremors.

Genital/Urinary System: vaginal pressure; urgency.

Respiratory System: cough.

Special Senses: blurred vision; dry mouth; ear discomfort; metallic taste; nasal congestion; scotomas; tongue discomfort.

Post Marketing Experience (see WARNINGS): The following adverse events have been reported from marketing experience with Adenoscan. Because these events are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, are associated with concomitant diseases and multiple drug therapies and surgical procedures, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure. Decisions to include these events in labeling are typically based on one or more of the following factors: (1) seriousness of the event, (2) frequency of the reporting, (3) strength of causal connection to the drug, or a combination of these factors.

Body as a Whole: Injection site reaction

Central Nervous System: Seizure activity, including tonic clonic (grand mal) seizures, and loss of consciousness

Digestive: Nausea and vomiting

Respiratory: Respiratory arrest

OVERDOSAGE:

The half-life of adenosine is less than 10 seconds and side effects of Adenoscan (when they occur) usually resolve quickly when the infusion is discontinued, although delayed or persistent effects have been observed. Methylxanthines, such as caffeine and theophylline, are competitive adenosine receptor antagonists and theophylline has been used to effectively terminate persistent side effects. In controlled U.S. clinical trials, theophylline (50-125 mg slow intravenous injection) was needed to abort Adenoscan side effects in less than 2% of patients.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:

For intravenous infusion only.

Adenoscan should be given as a continuous peripheral intravenous infusion.

The recommended intravenous dose for adults is 140 mcg/kg/min infused for six minutes (total dose of 0.84 mg/kg).

The required dose of thallium-201 should be injected at the midpoint of the Adenoscan infusion (i.e., after the first three minutes of Adenoscan).

Thallium-201 is physically compatible with Adenoscan and may be injected directly into the Adenoscan infusion set.

The injection should be as close to the venous access as possible to prevent an inadvertent increase in the dose of Adenoscan (the contents of the IV tubing) being administered. There are no data on the safety or efficacy of alternative Adenoscan infusion protocols.

The safety and efficacy of Adenoscan administered by the intracoronary route have not been established.

Note: Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration.

Rx only

Marketed by Astellas Pharma US, Inc.

Deerfield, IL 60015

Manufactured by Hospira Inc.

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47101/Revised: September 2006

Asymptomatic Celiac: Does Treatment Help or Hurt?

BY KATE JOHNSON

Montreal Bureau

NEW YORK — Symptomatic celiac disease is a clear indication for treatment with a gluten-free diet, but debate about the necessity of diagnosing and treating asymptomatic disease was lively at an international symposium on celiac disease.

“If we are going to diagnose this disease [in asymptomatic people], we have to be certain it will be of benefit,” said Dr. Richard Logan of the University of Nottingham (England).

Experts believe that diagnosed, symptomatic celiac disease represents only the tip of the iceberg of gluten sensitivity, while below the waterline is a spectrum of asymptomatic disease, which includes people with positive serology and histology (silent disease), as well as those with positive serology but negative histology (latent disease).

Such asymptomatic patients are often diagnosed during family screening, because it is now recognized that genetic predisposition plays an important role in the development of the disorder; almost all celiac patients carry the DQ2 or DQ8 genes.

But the uncertain clinical benefit of labeling asymptomatic individuals and prescribing them a lifelong gluten-free diet should be carefully weighed against the potential psychological and economic risks, warned several experts at the meeting, which was cosponsored by the AGA Institute.

Reducing Long-Term Risk

A gluten-free diet can dramatically reduce or eliminate symptoms, and this treatment has also been considered protective against the increased risks of malignancy and osteoporosis that have been associated with celiac disease—even its asymptomatic form. However, new research suggests that these long-term risks might be lower than previously believed, said Dr. Joe West of the University of Nottingham (England).

His study of almost 5,000 treated celiac patients and more than 23,000 controls revealed a 30% increase in overall malignancies among the celiac patients (BMJ 2004;329:716-9), but a closer analysis revealed a detection bias in that most cancers were diagnosed in the first year after the celiac diagnosis.

After controlling for this phenomenon, the difference in overall cancer rate between the two groups was no longer significant. However, further analysis of individual cancers did reveal a fivefold increase in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma among the celiac patients, and a 40-fold increase in small bowel lymphoma (Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther. 2004;20:769-75). Interestingly, breast cancers were 70% less common in the celiac population. “This is a pretty ro-

bust and intriguing finding for which I have no explanation,” Dr. West said.

His research also found a 30% increase in osteoporosis among celiac patients, with a twofold increase in hip fracture; however, the absolute risk remained small. These results were restricted to diagnosed celiac patients who were being treated with a gluten-free diet, and therefore their relevance for undiagnosed, untreated individuals is not clear, he said. “One way to look at it is to say that in an untreated group the risks could be much higher. The other way of looking at it is to say that people with undetected celiac may have less severe disease and therefore perhaps less risk,” he said.

Another argument for screening and treating asymptomatic celiac disease comes from evidence that it might progress to overt disease with continued

gluten exposure, other experts said. Early treatment with a gluten-free diet could halt the progression from latent to silent and then to symptomatic disease, they suggested, although this is still widely debated.

The Psychological Toll

But the psychological price of a lifelong gluten-free diet is often underappreciated by physicians who prescribe it, Dr. Logan said. A recent survey of patients diagnosed

with celiac disease revealed that one-third felt the gluten-free diet greatly reduced their enjoyment of food, and a quarter were not entirely pleased to have been diagnosed, he said. Despite experiencing relief of symptoms, many celiac patients (particularly women) on a gluten-free diet report a reduced quality of life, according to research by Dr. Claes Hallert of Linköping (Sweden) University.

“We used to say celiac was a very treatable disorder, but that is not entirely true,” he said in an interview. “Many patients react psychologically to the restrictive diet—there are social problems, societal problems, problems at work, problems with travel—and this may lead to depression.”

In a study of 40 celiac patients, his research group identified 195 situational dilemmas faced by patients dealing with a gluten-free diet. Specific emotions that were identified included isolation, shame, fear of gluten, and worry about inconveniencing others. Patients also reported unwanted visibility, neglect, disclosure avoidance, and risk-taking, as well as restrictions on food choice and extra work involved in food preparation (J. Hum. Nutr. Diet. 2005;18:171-80).

Such barriers might be important contributors to noncompliance with the diet, suggested Dr. Carolina Ciacci, whose research showed that anger is the predominant emotion in roughly 40% of diagnosed patients (Dig. Dis. Sci. 2002;47:2082-7). Between 45% and 75% of patients report strict adherence to the diet, she said. ■

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