TOCILIZUMAB

BRAND NAME	ACTEMRA, ROACTEMRA
DRUG CLASS	Antirheumatic, cytokine modulator, monoclonal antibody (humanised)
AVAILABILITY	Actemra and Roactemra vials contains 80 mg/4 mL, 200 mg/10 mL or 400 mg/20 mL of tocilizumab. Also contains polysorbate-80, sucrose, dibasic sodium phosphate dodecahydrate and monobasic sodium phosphate dihydrate. The solution is clear to opalescent and colourless to pale yellow.[1,2] A dose of 1.2 g contains 1.17 mmol of sodium.[1,2] Actemra prefilled syringe or pen contains 162 mg/0.9 mL of tocilizumab. Also contains histidine, histidine hydrochloride, polysorbate-80, arginine, arginine hydrochloride and methionine. The solution is clear to opalescent and colourless to slightly yellow.[1]
WARNING	The occupational hazard of intermittent low dose exposure to tocilizumab is not known. Wear a mask and gloves when preparing the infusion solution to minimise exposure. Serious hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis may occur. Resuscitation facilities must be readily available.[1,2]
pH	Actemra vial: 6.2–6.8[3] Actemra prefilled syringe or pen: 5.5–6.5[3]
PREPARATION	Vial: dilute for infusion[1,2] Prefilled syringe or pen: allow to reach room temperature before use. **Do not shake**.[1]
STABILITY	Store at 2 to 8 °C. Do not freeze. Protect from light.[1,2] The prefilled syringe or pen is stable for 8 hours below 30 °C.[1] Infusion solution: stable for 24 hours at 30 °C. Store at 2 to 8 °C.[1,2]
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Not recommended
SUBCUT injection	Use the prefilled syringe or pen. Inject into the thigh, abdomen or upper arms.[1] Suitable for self-administration after appropriate patient education.[4] The first dose must be given under medical observation.[1]
IV injection	Not recommended
IV infusion	Use the vial. Dilute the dose to 100 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% solution, invert gently to avoid foaming. **Do not shake**. Infuse over 1 hour.[1,2]
IV use for infants and children	Use the vial. If the patient weighs less than 30 kg, dilute the dose to 50 mL with sodium chloride 0.9%. If the patients weighs 30 kg or more dilute the dose to 100 mL with sodium chloride 0.9%. Infuse over 1 hour.[1,2]
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Sodium chloride 0.9%[1,2]
Y-site	No information
INCOMPATIBILITY	No information
SPECIAL NOTES	Monitor for possible hypersensitivity reactions during and for at least 30 minutes after the IV infusion.[1] Transient headache and skin reactions may occur with IV infusion.[1,2] Mild to moderate erythema, pruritus, pain and haematoma is common with subcutaneous injection.[1]

REFERENCES

1. Product information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 02/07/2019.
2. RoActemra 20 mg/mL concentrate for infusion. Summary of product characteristics. Grenzach-Whylen, Germany: Roche. Approved 16/01/2009. Updated 25/09/2013. Accessed 05/11/2021.
3. Medical information. Actrema (tocilizumab) and pH 01680683 [email]. Sydney: Roche Products Pty Ltd; 04/07/2019.
4. Consumer medicine information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 02/07/2019.