

[Somatropin](#)

Le Comité d'experts, après évaluation, refuse d'inscrire le médicament proposé dans la demande.

La Liste Modèle des Médicaments Essentiels fait état des raisons que les membres du Comité ont identifiées pour refuser l'inscription.

Refusée

Section:

[18. Medicines for endocrine disorders](#)

Codes ATC: [H01AC01](#)

EMLc

Indication

Hypoglycaemia without associated diabetes Code ICD11: [5A41](#)

INN

Somatropin

Type de médicament

Biological agent

Type de liste

Liste de base

Formulations

Parenteral > General injections > SC: 5 mg in cartridge powder for injection ; 5 mg per mL in 2 mL cartridge

Historique des statuts LME

Demande refusée en 2023 ([TRS 1049](#))

Sexe

Tous

Âge

Enfants (1 mois - 12 ans)

Équivalence thérapeutique

La recommandation concerne ce médicament spécifique

Renseignements sur le brevet

Patents have expired in most jurisdictions

Lire la suite [sur les brevets.](#)

Wikipédia

[Somatropin](#)

DrugBank

[Somatropin \(Somatotropin\)](#)

Recommandation du comité d'experts

The Expert Committee noted that growth hormone deficiency, both congenital and acquired, has been reported to affect between 1 in 4000 to 10 000 people globally. However, the incidence and prevalence of hypoglycaemia due to growth hormone deficiency, the indication for which listing of somatropin is requested, was not reported in the application. The Committee acknowledged that management of hypoglycaemia, of any etiology, in neonates and infants was critical to prevent permanent neurological sequelae. The Committee noted that the application did not identify specific evidence from clinical trials of the efficacy and harms of somatropin in the management of hypoglycaemia due to growth hormone deficiency, but acknowledged limited evidence from case reports and cohort studies that have reported the effectiveness of rhGH therapy for this indication. The Committee noted that the Model Lists currently include diazoxide, glucagon and glucose for use in the management of hypoglycaemia. The Committee considered that comparative evidence for somatropin versus these medicines, including information on the comparative costs and cost-effectiveness would be necessary to inform any future consideration of somatropin for this indication. The Expert Committee therefore did not recommend the inclusion of somatropin on the complementary list of the EMLc for the management of hypoglycaemia secondary to growth hormone deficiency in neonates, infants and young children.

Contexte

Somatropin has not been previously considered for inclusion on the Model Lists for the proposed nor any other indication. Diazoxide and glucagon were recommended for inclusion on the EMLc in 2021 and 2011, respectively, for use in the treatment of hypoglycaemia in children. Diazoxide was recommended specifically for management of hypoglycaemia secondary to prolonged hyperinsulinism (1).

Pertinence pour la santé publique

The prevalence of idiopathic growth hormone deficiency in the United Kingdom and United States of America is estimated to be between 1 in 3400 and 4000 (2). Other estimates report a worldwide prevalence of growth hormone deficiency of between 1 in 4000 to 1 in 10 000 (3). Growth hormone deficiency occurs when the pituitary gland fails to produce enough growth hormone. This deficiency is typically associated with medical conditions that affect the pituitary gland, such as congenital brain abnormalities (e.g. septo-optic dysplasia), and in rare cases, gene deletions in the hormonal pathway responsible for growth hormone production. These conditions are usually present at birth and often diagnosed in infancy. Additionally, growth hormone deficiency can be caused by brain tumours and their treatment, including radiation therapy, which typically affects older children. Growth hormone deficiency is frequently linked to short stature throughout childhood, adolescence and adulthood. The presentation, diagnosis, and management of growth hormone deficiency differ substantially between neonates and older children or adolescents (4-7). Neonatal growth hormone deficiency is associated with severe hypoglycaemia in 30-85% of cases and can be managed with recombinant human growth hormone treatment (8,9). Neonatal growth hormone deficiency is rarely observed beyond 2 years of age, although there have been occasional reports in children up to the age of 7 years (8,10-12). Long-term consequences of moderate and severe neonatal hypoglycaemia include irreversible neurological damage and delayed psychomotor development (13-16).

Bénéfices

No evidence for the benefits of rhGH in the treatment of hypoglycaemia secondary to growth hormone deficiency was presented in the application. The application stated that randomized, placebo-controlled trials evaluating the effectiveness of rhGH therapy on hypoglycaemia in neonates were lacking because it is ethically unreasonable not to treat patients diagnosed with growth hormone deficiency with growth hormone replacement therapy. Several case reports, case series and cohort studies have reported the effectiveness of rhGH therapy in addressing hypoglycaemia in neonates and infants with human growth hormone deficiency (10). No evidence was presented in the application on potential alternative treatments for hypoglycaemia in neonates and infants, such as dextrose, diazoxide and glucagon.

Torts



In the absence of long-term randomized trials, evaluation of the potential harms and toxicity of rhGH has been conducted through various registries mandated by health authorities worldwide. When used as replacement therapy in children and adolescents side-effects of rhGH include rash and pain at injection site, transient fever, prepubertal gynaecomastia, arthralgia, oedema, benign intracranial hypertension, insulin resistance, progression of scoliosis and slipped capital femoral epiphysis (17). A review of data from two observational studies of the long-term safety of growth hormone treatment in children found no indication of an increased risk of mortality or adverse events related to the dose of growth hormone in any risk group (18). The application stated that short- and long-term adverse effects associated with rhGH reported in older children and adolescents have not been reported in neonates or infants (19). Because rhGH stimulates cell proliferation, concerns exist that treatment might be associated with an increased risk of malignancies. A 2017 cohort study of 23 984 patients treated with rhGH in eight European countries since 1984 found a significantly increased incidence in bone and bladder cancer in rhGH-treated patients without previous cancer. For patients treated with rhGH after previous cancer, cancer mortality risk was significantly increased with increasing rhGH dose. The incidence of Hodgkin lymphoma increased significantly with longer follow-up in all patients and in patients without previous cancer (20). The United States National Cooperative Growth Study evaluated the safety and efficacy of rhGH in 54 996 children between 1985 and 2006. No increased risk in the development of leukaemia was observed in children treated with rhGH compared with an age-matched general population. Intracranial and extracranial malignancies were not significantly more frequent in patients without risk factors. An increased risk of secondary malignancies in patients previously treated with radiation was observed (21). The Childhood Cancer Survival Study followed up 13 539 survivors of childhood cancer. A nested cohort of 361 cancer survivors treated with rhGH showed no significantly increased risk of disease recurrence (relative risk (RR) 0.83, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.37 to 1.86). An increased risk of development of secondary neoplasms (all solid tumours and no secondary leukaemias) was observed (RR 3.21, 95% CI 1.88 to 5.46) (22).

Preuves supplémentaires



The evidence provided by the applicants was incomplete and was supplemented by the reviewers and Secretariat.

Rapport coût/efficacité



Data specifically addressing the cost-effectiveness of rhGH treatment in neonates and infants with hypoglycaemia secondary to growth hormone deficiency are lacking. The application reported the cost of growth hormone (per mg) as US\$ 46.50 to 62.10 in Argentina, US\$ 20.67 to 34.20 in Canada, US\$ 6.55 in India and US\$ 26.30 in Mexico. The monthly treatment costs (assuming a price of US\$ 25/mg and approximate weight of the 50% centile of 3.5 kg for neonates, 7.5 kg for 6-month-old infants and 15 kg for 24-month-old infants) were estimated in the submission to be US\$ 56, US\$ 120 and US\$ 240, respectively.

Directives de l'OMS



WHO guidelines for the management of hypoglycaemia secondary to growth hormone deficiency are not currently available.

Disponibilité



Somatropin is manufactured and distributed by several pharmaceutical companies around the world. Manufacturers differ by the appearance and quality of the injection devices and by the different strengths and concentrations of the cartridges to suit all ages. The availability of and financial support for rhGH treatment in low- and middle-income countries are generally limited compared with high-income countries, potentially leading to disparities in access to this therapy for individuals with growth hormone deficiency in those regions.

Autres considérations



Treatment with rhGH requires specialized diagnostic and monitoring facilities as well as medical care by a paediatric endocrinologist or, if not available, by a paediatrician knowledgeable in paediatric endocrine diseases. The misuse of rhGH for performance enhancement is a serious concern. This is primarily due to the hormone's anabolic properties, which can potentially lead to unauthorized off-label use.

Afficher les références Masquer les références

1. The selection and use of essential medicines. Report of the WHO Expert Committee, 2021 (including the 22nd WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and the 6th WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021 (WHO Technical Report Series, No. 1035; <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/351172>, accessed 6 October 2023).
2. Grumbach MM, Bin-Abbas BS, Kaplan SL. The growth hormone cascade: progress and long-term results of growth hormone treatment in growth hormone deficiency. *Horm Res.* 1998;49(Suppl 2):41-57.
3. Stanley T. Diagnosis of growth hormone deficiency in childhood. *Curr Opin Endocrinol Diabetes Obes.* 2012;19(1):47-52.
4. Binder G, Weber K, Rieflin N, Steinruck L, Blumenstock G, Janzen N, et al. Diagnosis of severe growth hormone deficiency in the newborn. *Clin Endocrinol (Oxf).* 2020;93(3):305-11.
5. Binder G, Weidenkeller M, Blumenstock G, Langkamp M, Weber K, Franz AR. Rational approach to the diagnosis of severe growth hormone deficiency in the newborn. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2010;95(5):2219-26.
6. Ranke MB. Diagnosis of growth hormone deficiency and growth hormone stimulation tests. In: Ranke MB, editor. *Diagnostics of endocrine function in children and adolescents.* Basel: Karger; 2003:107-28.
7. Ranke MB. Short and long-term effects of growth hormone in children and adolescents with GH deficiency. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne).* 2021;12:720419.
8. Wilber JF, Odell WD. Hypoglycemia and dwarfism associated with the isolated deficiency of growth hormone. *Metabolism.* 1965;14(5):590-7.
9. Thornton PS, Stanley CA,

De Leon DD, Harris D, Haymond MW, Hussain K, et al. Recommendations from the Pediatric Endocrine Society for evaluation and management of persistent hypoglycemia in neonates, infants, and children. *J Pediatr.* 2015;167(2):238-45. 10. Smyczyńska J, Pawelak N, Hilczer M, Lewiński A. Delayed diagnosis of congenital combined pituitary hormone deficiency including severe growth hormone deficiency in children with persistent neonatal hypoglycemia - case reports and review. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2022;23(19):11069. 11. Thakkar A, Aikaterini N. Isolated growth hormone deficiency as a cause of hypoglycemia past infancy. *J Endocr Soc.* 2021;5(Suppl 1):A701-A. 12. Boro H, Goyal A, Khadgawat R. Isolated growth hormone deficiency presenting with recurrent hypoglycaemia in a toddler. *BMJ Case Rep.* 2019;12(7):e231056-e. 13. Pildes RS, Cornblath M, Warren I, Page-El E, di Menza S, Merritt DM, et al. A prospective controlled study of neonatal hypoglycemia. *Pediatrics.* 1974;54(1):5-14. 14. Wickström R, Skiöld B, Petersson G, Stephansson O, Altman M. Moderate neonatal hypoglycemia and adverse neurological development at 2-6 years of age. *Eur J Epidemiol.* 2018;33(10):1011-20. 15. McKinlay CJD, Alsweller JM, Anstice NS, Burakevych N, Chakraborty A, Chase JG, et al. Association of neonatal glycemia with neurodevelopmental outcomes at 4.5 years. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2017;171(10):972-83. 16. Kaiser JR, Bai S, Gibson N, Holland G, Lin TM, Swearingen CJ, et al. Association between transient newborn hypoglycemia and fourth-grade achievement test proficiency. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2015;169(10):913-21. 17. Souza FM, Collett-Solberg PF. Adverse effects of growth hormone replacement therapy in children. *Arq Bras Endocrinol Metabol.* 2011;55(8):559-65. 18. Sävendahl L, Polak M, Backeljauw P, Blair JC, Miller BS, Rohrer TR, et al. Long-term safety of growth hormone treatment in childhood: two large observational studies: NordiNet IOS and ANSWER. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2021;106(6):1728-41. 19. Allen DB, Backeljauw P, Bidlingmaier M, Biller BMK, Boguszewski M, Burman P, et al. GH safety workshop position paper: a critical appraisal of recombinant human GH therapy in children and adults. *Eur J Endocrinol.* 2016;174(2):1-9. 20. Swerdlow AJ, Cooke R, Beckers D, Borgström B, Butler G, Carel JC, et al. Cancer risks in patients treated with growth hormone in childhood: the SAGhE European Cohort Study. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2017;102(5):1661-72. 21. Bell J, Parker KL, Swinford RD, Hoffman AR, Maneatis T, Lippe B. Long-term safety of recombinant human growth hormone in children. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2010;95(1):167-77. 22. Sklar CA, Mertens AC, Mitby P, Occhiogrosso G, Qin J, Heller G, et al. Risk of disease recurrence and second neoplasms in survivors of childhood cancer treated with growth hormone: a report from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2002;87(7):3136-41.