8. Immunomodulators and antineoplastics

8.2. Antineoplastics and supportive medicines

8.2.4. Hormones and antihormones

**Dexamethasone**

**Essential medicine status**

**ATC codes:**

H02AB02

**Indication:**

Lymphoid leukaemia, not elsewhere classified

**ICD11 code:**

2C03.3

**INN:**

Dexamethasone

**Medicine type:**

Chemical agent

**List type:**

Complementary (EML) (EMLc)

**Formulations:**

- Oral > Liquid: 2 mg per 5 mL (EMLc)
- Oral > Solid: 2 mg (EMLc) ; 4 mg
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (as disodium phosphate salt)

**EML status history:**

- First added in 1977 (TRS 615)
- Changed in 2015 (TRS 994)

**Sex:**

All

**Age:**

Also recommended for children

**Therapeutic alternatives:**

The recommendation is for this specific medicine

**Patent information:**

Patents have expired in most jurisdictions

Read more about patents.

**Tags:**

Cancer

**Wikipedia:**

Dexamethasone

**DrugBank:**

Dexamethasone

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**Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations**

In 2015, as part of the comprehensive review of cancer medicines undertaken by the Expert Committee, listing for asparaginase on the complementary list of the EML and EMLc for use in treatment protocols for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) was recommended. The relevant extract from TRS994 regarding the Expert Committee's 2015 consideration of treatment protocols for ALL is attached.

Read more about patents.