# The Medical Letter®

## on Drugs and Therapeutics

Volume 67 August 18, 2025

ISSUE No. 1735

IN THIS ISSUE

The Medical Letter®
on Drugs and Therapeutics

Volume 67 (Issue 1735) August 18, 2025

Take CME Exams

IN BRIEF

## A New Donanemab *(Kisunla)* Dosing Regimen for Alzheimer's Disease

The FDA has approved a new titration regimen for donanemab (*Kisunla* – Lilly),[1] an IV amyloid beta-directed monoclonal antibody indicated for treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The new regimen is intended to reduce the risk of serious amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA) associated with use of the drug.

**CLINICAL STUDIES —** FDA approval of the new titration regimen was based on the results of a double-blind trial (TRAILBLAZER-ALZ 6) in 843 patients with early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease who were randomized to receive standard donanemab dosing or one of three alternative dosing regimens (modified titration, dose skipping, or Cmax). The frequency of ARIA with edema/effusions (ARIA-E) at 24 weeks was significantly lower with modified titration dosing than with standard dosing (13.7% vs 23.7%), but the frequency of ARIA with hemorrhages/hemosiderin deposition (ARIA-H) was not (20.3% vs 25.1%). Amyloid reduction from baseline was similar in the modified titration and standard dosing groups (-56.3% vs -58.8%). Results were maintained at 52 weeks.[2]

**ADVERSE EFFECTS —** The most common adverse effects of donanemab in clinical trials have been ARIA-E and ARIA-H. The risk of ARIA is greater in patients who are APOE ε4 homozygotes (~15% of patients with Alzheimer's disease). Headache and infusion-related reactions also commonly occur in patients taking donanemab. Hypersensitivity reactions have occurred. Intestinal obstruction and perforation have been reported rarely.

**DOSAGE, ADMINISTRATION, AND COST —** Donanemab is administered by intravenous infusion over 30 minutes every 4 weeks. The recommended dosage is now 350 mg for infusion 1, 700 mg for infusion 2, 1050 mg for infusion 3, and 1400 mg for infusion 4 and every 4 weeks thereafter. (The previous dosing regimen was 700 mg every 4 weeks for 3 doses, then 1400 mg every four weeks.) The total amount of donanemab in the titration regimen remains the same. The wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) for a 1400-mg dose of *Kisunla* is about $2800.[3] ■

1. Donanemab (Kisunla) for Alzheimer's disease. Med Lett Drugs Ther 2024; 66:129.
2. H Wang et al. Modified titration of donanemab reduces ARIA risk and maintains amyloid reduction. Alzheimers Dement 2025; 21:e70062.
3. Approximate WAC. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. July 5, 2025. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2025. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.

**Subscription Services**

**Address:**
The Medical Letter, Inc.
2 Madison Ave, Ste 211
Larchmont, NY 10538
www.medicalletter.org

**Customer Service:**
Call: 800-211-2769 or 914-235-0500
Fax: 914-632-1733
E-mail: custserv@medicalletter.org

**Permissions:**
To reproduce any portion of this issue, please e-mail your request to:
permissions@medicalletter.org

**Subscriptions (US):**
1 year – $179; $65 per year for students, interns, residents, and fellows in the US and Canada.
Reprints – $45 per issue or article

**Site License Inquiries:**
E-mail: SubQuote@medicalletter.org
Call: 800-211-2769
Special rates available for bulk subscriptions.

Get Connected:

 ISSN 1523-2859