

CGRP monoclonal antibodies are a relatively new class of medications used for the prevention of migraine headaches. CGRP (calcitonin gene-related peptide) is a protein involved in the development of migraine pain. By targeting this protein, CGRP monoclonal antibodies can prevent or reduce the frequency and severity of migraine attacks.

The CGRP monoclonal antibodies currently approved for use in the US include erenumab (Aimovig), fremanezumab (Ajovy), galcanezumab (Emgality), and eptinezumab (Vyapti). They are administered via subcutaneous injection, typically once a month, either by the patient or a healthcare professional.

These medications are primarily used for the prevention of migraine headaches in adults. They may be recommended for individuals who experience frequent or debilitating migraines that have not responded well to other preventative treatments. CGRP monoclonal antibodies are not used to treat acute migraine attacks; they are only effective in preventing them.

The most common side effects of CGRP monoclonal antibodies include injection site reactions, constipation, and muscle or joint pain. However, serious side effects are rare. As these medications are relatively new, the long-term safety and efficacy are still being studied.

Patients who are prescribed CGRP monoclonal antibodies should be monitored regularly by their specialist to assess the effectiveness of the treatment and to monitor for any potential side effects. It is important for patients to inform their specialist of any new symptoms or changes in their health.

In summary, CGRP monoclonal antibodies are a promising new treatment option for individuals with frequent or debilitating migraine headaches. They work by targeting a protein involved in migraine pain and are administered via injection. While generally well-tolerated, patients should be monitored for potential side effects and the long-term safety and efficacy of these medications is still being studied.