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IN BRIEF

Another Insulin Lispro (*Admelog*) for Diabetes

The FDA has approved *Admelog* (Sanofi-Aventis), an insulin lispro product similar to *Humalog* (Lilly), which went off patent in 2013.

Approval of *Admelog* was based on efficacy data with *Humalog* and on two 6-month, open-label, randomized, noninferiority trials. In SORELLA 1¹ in 507 patients with type 1 diabetes and SORELLA 2² in 505 patients with type 2 diabetes, *Admelog* was noninferior to *Humalog* in lowering A1C, fasting plasma glucose levels, and self-monitored plasma glucose levels. The incidence of adverse effects, including hypoglycemia, was similar.

Table 1. Insulin Lispro Products

Drug	Concentration	Some Formulations	Cost ¹
<i>Humalog</i> (Lilly)	100 units/mL,	3, 10 mL vials	\$274.70
	200 units/mL ²	3 mL <i>KwikPen</i> ³	106.10
<i>Admelog</i> (Sanofi-Aventis)	100 units/mL	10 mL vials	233.50
		3 mL <i>SoloStar</i> pen ⁴	90.20

1. Approximate WAC for one 10-mL vial or one 100 unit/mL 3-mL pen. 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. June 5, 2018. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2018. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.

2. Only the *KwikPen* is available in a concentration of 200 units/mL.

3. Long-acting insulin glargine (*Basaglar*) is also available in a *Kwikpen*.

4. Long-acting insulin glargine (*Lantus*) is also available in a *SoloStar* pen.

Even though *Admelog* is very similar to *Humalog* in composition, strength, and structural and biological properties, and appears to produce the same glucose-lowering effects, it was not designated as a biosimilar or an interchangeable biologic product by the FDA because of a regulatory technicality: insulin is classified as a chemical, not a biological, entity, so there is no biologic reference product for insulin lispro. Pharmacists cannot substitute *Admelog* for *Humalog* without the permission of the prescriber.

Admelog is available in 10-mL vials and in packages of five multi-dose *SoloStar* pens, each prefilled with 3 mL of insulin lispro 100 units/mL. A pen can deliver 1 to 80 units per injection. It should be primed with 2 units of insulin lispro before each injection. *Admelog* should be injected subcutaneously within 15 minutes before a meal, or immediately after a meal.

Admelog is similar to *Humalog* in efficacy and safety. Patients could use either one. ■

1. SK Garg et al. Efficacy and safety of biosimilar SAR342434 insulin lispro in adults with type 1 diabetes also using insulin glargine – SORELLA 1 study. *Diabetes Technol Ther* 2017; 19:516.

2. KM Derwahl et al. Efficacy and safety of biosimilar SAR342434 insulin lispro in adults with type 2 diabetes, also using insulin glargine: SORELLA 2 study. *Diabetes Technol Ther* 2018; 20:49.

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