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on Drugs and Therapeutics

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Advance Release Article

IN THIS ISSUE

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IN BRIEF

Subcutaneous Lecanemab *(Leqembi Iqlik)* for Initial Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease

The FDA has approved *Leqembi Iqlik*, the subcutaneous (SC) formulation of the amyloid beta-directed monoclonal antibody lecanemab, for once-weekly initiation dosing in patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD). The SC formulation was previously approved only for maintenance treatment in patients who had received IV lecanemab for at least 18 months.[1]

CLINICAL STUDIES — FDA approval of the new SC starting regimen was based on data from substudies of the open-label CLARITY AD extension trial that found that lecanemab exposure with once-weekly subcutaneous injection was similar to that with IV administration of the drug.[2]

SC administration of lecanemab was associated with less frequent systemic reactions than IV administration, but severe localized reactions leading to treatment discontinuation have occurred with the SC formulation. The risk of amyloid-related imaging abnormalities with the two formulations is expected to be similar.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION — *Leqembi Iqlik* is available in single-dose 250 mg/1.25 mL and 360 mg/1.8 mL autoinjectors. The SC starting dosage is 500 mg (given as two 250-mg injections) injected once weekly into the abdomen, thigh, or back of the upper arm. After 18 months, maintenance treatment with lecanemab 10 mg/kg IV every 2 or 4 weeks or 360 mg SC once weekly should be initiated. The SC injection can be administered at home by the patient or caregiver. ■

Table 1. Amyloid-Directed Antibodies for Alzheimer's Disease

Drug	Donanemab *(Kisunla)*	Lecanemab *(Leqembi, Leqembi Iqlik)*
Manufacturer	Lilly	Eisai
Indication	Treatment of AD[1]	Treatment of AD[1]
Initial dosing	IV q4 weeks over 30 minutes[2]	500 mg SC once/week or 10 mg/kg IV q2 weeks over 1 hour x 18 months
Maintenance dosing interval	1400 mg IV q4 weeks	10 mg/kg IV q2 or 4 weeks or 360 mg SC once/week
MRI monitoring	Baseline and before the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 7th infusions	Baseline and before the 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 14th infusions
Treatment duration	May be stopped if amyloid plaque levels are reduced	Indefinite; not based on amyloid plaque levels
Cost (first year)[3]	$32,400	$24,010

AD = Alzheimer's disease
1. Treatment should be initiated in patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia.
2. Titrated every 4 weeks: 350 mg x1, 750 mg x1, 1050 mg x1, 1400 mg q4 weeks thereafter.
3. Approximate WAC for the first year of treatment in a 70-kg patient. 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. August 5, 2026. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2026. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.

1. In brief: Updates for lecanemab (Leqembi) for Alzheimer's disease. Med Lett Drugs Ther 2025; 67:182.
2. MC Irizarry and L Reyderman. Lecanemab subcutaneous formulation for maintenance dosing: the potential of a new and convenient option for ongoing treatment in early Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2025; Toronto, ON; July 27-31, 2025.

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