Amlexanox

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 Amlexanox (ALX) is FDA approved for canker sores/ recurrent aphthous ulcers. One trade name is Solfa[®] another is Aphthasol[®]. This drug fell out of favor in the USA in 2017 as other agents came to market.



Uses

- Has been researched as an off-label drug for use in multiorgan damage due to COVID-19.
- Anti-inflammatory
- Can be uses as alternative to drugs with more ASE (e.g. Prednisone, MLK, etc.)
- 25mg or 50mg Tabs (by Takeda Pharma). (in one study with T2DM one cohort was administered 50mg TID [150mg/d])
- For aphthous ulcers a dose of 12mg/d is the normal (FDA approval for that use)

- At doses of 10mg/kg/day there were no ASE reported in a six-month toxicology study (in dogs)
- And in the rat model doses of 300mg/kg/d showed no carcinogenic or altered reproductive effects.

Approval and MOA

- Amlexanox is approved for use in asthma, conjunctivitis and rhinitis in Japan.
- It increases AMPK cellular energy sensor that is activated by a fall in energy status with an increase in AMP to ATP. Restores energy homeostasis in the Krebs's cycle.
- It reduces mTOR inflammatory pathway.
- It reduces NFk-B inflammatory biomarker.
- Inhibitor of TBK1- IkB kinase TANK-1 and IKKε IkappaB kinase-epsilon both components of interferon regulatory factor (IRF) signaling pathway. Elevations of TBK1 and IKKε are associated with several inflammatory diseases. Inhibition of this pathway reduces IL-33.
- Increases Autophagy

Approval and MOA

- Reduces Insulin Resistance (IR)
- Modulation of macrophages
- Th1:Th2 balance
- Reduces T-cell activation in neuroinflammation
- Reduces release of histamine and leukotriene mediators in mast cells, neutrophils and monocytes. Useful in MCAS and CIRS.
- In the mice model inhibits obesity related metabolic dysfunction
- Improvement in IRS and SBG in T2DM; Improvement in Fatty Liver Disease
- Rx at cPharm in the USA

TBK1/IKKE inhibition by Amlexanox



Can be used in place of

- H1 blockers (Antihistamine/ Zyrtec[®], Claritin[®] and Benadryl[®])
- H2 blockers (famotidine / Pepcid[®])
- Leukotriene inhibitors (MLK / Singulair[®])
- HD-Corticosteroids (Prednisone)
- Single agent can reduce dependence on other agents with more sideeffects and ADS/cost
- Start with 40mg QD and can use up to QID. Pharma makes 25 & 50mg tablets available in Japan.

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Amlexanox Clinical Applications (Part I & II) by Dr. S. Halasa presentation June 2023

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