



DRUG REVIEW

April 2023



KORSUVA® - First Approved Drug for Chronic Kidney Disease-associated Pruritis

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is the gradual and irreversible loss of kidney function over several months to years. Chronic kidney disease-associated pruritis (CKD-aP) is a burdensome condition in which patients with CKD suffer from extreme itching of unclear cause. This condition is considerably prevalent in patients that are on hemodialysis. CKD-aP can be debilitating to patients, negatively impact their quality of sleep and can cause severe skin lesions from constantly scratching resulting in infections.

Current clinical guidelines recommend the use of medications such as antihistamines (e.g. Atarax) and gabapentinoids (e.g. Lyrica). These medications are not Health Canada approved for CKD-aP, but are considered standard of care for most patients. However, these options may not offer full relief for all patients.

Korsuva® is the first Health Canada approved medication to treat CKD-aP. Korsuva® has a unique mechanism of action, targeting certain nerve and immune cells resulting in anti-itch and anti-inflammatory effects.

Clinical trials found that Korsuva® was able to effectively reduce the itch intensity and itch burden in patients with CKD receiving hemodialysis.

The annual cost of Korsuva® is considerably greater than the current standard of care. Therefore, Korsuva® will be placed under Special authorization for groups subscribed to ClaimSecure's Managed Formulary.

Drug Name	KORSUVA®
Drug Ingredients	Difelikefalin
Annual Cost	\$4212
Coverage Details	Special Authorization

ClaimSecure Inc. reserves the right to amend in part, or in its entirety, its Special Authorization guidelines.

References:

- 1- Korsuva Product Monograph. Otsuka Canada Inc. August 2022.
- 2- KDIGO 2019 Chronic Kidney Disease associated pruritis Guideline

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