

Dupilumab (Dupixent)

Dupilumab is a promising new treatment that has been FDA approved for extensive atopic dermatitis/eczema. This medication specifically targets signaling of two substances called IL-4 and IL-13, which are responsible for producing much of the inflammation and redness of atopic dermatitis.

Atopic dermatitis can be quite severe and significantly interfere with your quality of life. The itching can be quite bothersome and the abnormal skin may lead to significant infections. Unfortunately the medication we used in the past did not work very well or could produce significant side effects. This medication has significant advantages in that it is more targeted to normalize the IL-4/IL-13 substances thereby increasing the efficacy and decreasing the risk for adverse reactions.

This medication can be used alone or in combination with topical therapy. Dupilumab is a medication that is self-injected every other week. The administration is quite easy to perform and we will instruct you on the proper way to do this. All of the materials for injection are supplied with the prescription.

Before the treatment is started we will need to obtain some baseline blood work if it has not been done already. Side effects of this medication are rare, with the majority being mild in intensity. These include conjunctivitis, or irritation of the eyes, cold sores of the mouth and lips, or tenderness at the injection site. If you have an active infection you should not take dupilumab. In addition, if you are pregnant, you should not take this medication. As with any medication, there are potential allergic reactions. Please call the office if you have any reactions or concerns.

Dupilumab is a major advance in the treatment of atopic dermatitis and eczema in general.

If you have any further questions regarding this medication, please ask me before you leave the office.