



Canadian Hemophilia Society
Help Stop the Bleeding
Société canadienne de l'hémophilie
Arrêtons l'hémorragie

Hemlibra available to Quebec patients with hemophilia A and inhibitors

May 9, 2019 - Montreal - Héma-Québec informed the Canadian Hemophilia Society-Quebec Chapter (CHSQ) today that Hemlibra® will be available for the treatment of patients with hemophilia A and inhibitors in Quebec in the coming days.

Hemlibra, manufactured by Roche, was approved by Health Canada for this patient group in August 2018. An additional indication for patients without inhibitors is expected to be approved in summer 2019; however, it is still unclear when Hemlibra will be available for patients without inhibitors.

The remaining Provinces and Territories (P/T) have yet to make a decision on the availability of Hemlibra. The P/T Deputy Ministers meet at the end of May and the Canadian Hemophilia Society expects Hemlibra to be on the agenda.

Hemlibra (emicizumab) is a monoclonal antibody that mimics the role of factor VIII in the coagulation cascade. Research data from the HAVEN 1 and 2 studies show a dramatic decrease in bleeding in patients with inhibitors compared to current standard of care with bypassing agents. Patient testimonials, including by Canadians receiving the drug in clinical trials or for compassionate reasons, report significant improvements in quality of life. Economic modelling done by the CHS and by independent health technology assessment groups shows important cost savings for the health system. Hemlibra is given once a week via a subcutaneous injection.

The CHSQ is supporting a multi-centre study in Quebec patients with inhibitors who switch to Hemlibra. The study will explore changes in bleeding patterns, hemostasis measures and quality of life.

Quebec patients with hemophilia A and inhibitors should contact their treatment centre for more information (www.hemophilia.ca/treatment-centres-quebec).