Position statement on minocycline for the management of acne vulgaris

SW London *CCGs do NOT support the routine prescribing of minocycline for the treatment of acne vulgaris

Rationale

There is no evidence to support the use of one tetracycline over another in terms of efficacy for the treatment of acne vulgaris.¹

- Minocycline is not recommended for the treatment of acne vulgaris as other tetracyclines are more cost-effective with better safety profiles.²

- Alternative once daily tetracyclines are available to improve patient adherence to treatment, as per local guidelines.²

- There are safety concerns with minocycline which have been known for some time:
  - Early onset dose-related toxicity reactions resulting in single organ dysfunctions.
  - Hypersensitivity reactions (presenting as pneumonitis, eosinophilia, nephritis and serum sickness-like syndrome).
  - Autoimmune disorders including systemic lupus erythematos-like syndrome, the risk of which increases with duration of use).
  - Skin pigmentation which in some cases may be irreversible.
  - Hepatotoxicity.

References

Guidance for clinicians

Recommendations:

- Patients who are currently prescribed minocycline for acne vulgaris should be reviewed. If therapy is still required, change to lymecycline 408mg once daily or doxycycline 100mg once daily as per local guidelines.

- For new patients requiring oral antibiotic treatment for acne vulgaris, prescribe as follows:
  - First line: lymecycline 408mg or doxycycline 100mg once daily as per local guidelines.
  - Please refer to your local Management of Infection or Dermatology guidelines for further information.

- Oral antibiotics should not be used alone; they should always be used in combination with a topical retinoid or benzoyl peroxide.¹

- An adequate dose of an oral antibiotic must be given for at least 3 months before deciding a patient has failed to respond. If there is no improvement, another oral antibiotic must be used.¹

Guidance for patients, carers and guardians

- Minocycline is not recommended for the treatment of acne due to safety concerns.

- Your clinician will review your medication and prescribe a suitable alternative.

¹SWL CCGs (NHS Croydon CCG, NHS Kingston CCG, NHS Merton CCG, NHS Richmond CCG, NHS Sutton CCG and NHS Wandsworth CCG) position statement on prescribing of minocycline for acne vulgaris