



DRUG REVIEW



March 2021

VASCEPA® - A New Treatment for Elevated Triglyceride Levels

Heart disease (also known as cardiovascular disease) is the second leading cause of death in Canada. Cardiovascular disease can lead to heart attacks, stroke, coronary revascularization (coronary bypass or stents) or death. It is vital to treat any risk factors that can lead to one of these cardiovascular events.

An elevated level of blood lipids (e.g. cholesterol, triglycerides) is one of the risk factors for major cardiovascular events. Statins such as Crestor, Lipitor and Zocor are commonly used by millions of Canadians for reducing cholesterol levels, specifically LDL levels. Other options to reduce cholesterol levels include Ezetrol, Fibrates, and Niacin products. However, even with these therapies, many patients have a high residual risk for a cardiovascular event. High blood triglycerides level is one of the contributors to the residual cardiovascular event risk. Current treatment options for reducing triglyceride levels have not shown an additional benefit in reducing cardiovascular events.

Vascepa® is indicated for statin-treated patients with elevated triglycerides, who are at high risk of a cardiovascular event due to established cardiovascular disease or diabetes with at least one other risk factor.

Vascepa® has been shown to reduce important cardiovascular events by 25%, including 20% reduction in death, 31% reduction in heart attack, 35% reduction in urgent stent/bypass, and 28% reduction in stroke. Vascepa® is an effective add-on therapy which demonstrates clinical evidence to reduce cardiovascular events.

The dose of Vascepa® is 2 grams twice daily with meals. The cost of Vascepa® is \$2.45 per 1g capsule resulting in an average annual cost of therapy of \$3,577. Vascepa® is indicated for a specific population and is priced at premium relative to standard therapies, i.e. statins. Therefore, it will be placed under Special Authorization for ClaimSecure groups subscribed to Managed Formularies.

Drug Name	Vascepa®
Drug Ingredients	Icosapent ethyl
Annual Cost	\$3,577
Coverage Details	Special Authorization for Managed Formularies. Fully covered for Open Formularies.

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

References:

1)VASCEPA Product Monograph. HLS Therapeutics. December 2019. Available at: https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd_pm/00054482.PDF

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