



HUMAN CHORIONIC GONADOTROPIN (HCG)
FOR ADHESIVE ARACHNOIDITIS (AA)

The advanced categories of AA may produce indescribable pain and suffering and warrants whatever treatment is available. Compounded human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) was our top recommendation for the severe and catastrophic categories of AA until it was removed from the market several months ago. Clearly it was a “godsend” for many persons with AA – particularly those persons who also have a connective tissue-collagen disorder in the Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome class.

HCG is Still Commercially Available: HCG can no longer be made by compounding pharmacies, but it is still available as an injectable under the trade name Pregnyl®. It comes as a 10 ml multidose vial, and it contains 10,000 units per vial. The usual starting dose is 250 to 500 units twice a week. Maximal dosage is 500 units three times a week.

Cost: There is a maximum of 40, 250-unit dosages in a 10,000-unit 10 ml vial. Every person with AA needs to determine if they can financially afford to acquire HCG. Persons with MRI-documented AA should apply for insurance coverage.

Why is HCG so Effective? This is THE hormone that the body naturally makes to grow and heal nervous tissue. It goes up during pregnancy to grow brain, spinal cord, and nerve roots in the fetus. A pregnancy test is “positive” when HCG goes up. It is the one hormone that directly regrows damaged nerve roots in AA. Scientifically and technically, HCG has two chemical arms or units:

1. Stimulating hormones: Follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinizing hormone (LH) and thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)
2. Nerve tissue growth

Other Benefits of HCG: HCG raises the hormones progesterone, estradiol, and testosterone – all of which may be lowered by intractable pain and opioids. Insurance may be most likely to cover HCG if any of these hormones are low.

No Conflict: HCG can be taken with naltrexone, Toradol®, opioids, and corticosteroids.

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