New CGRP Antagonists/Inhibitors

What is CGRP?

- CGRP is a neuropeptide released during migraines
- Neuropeptide CGRP causes cerebral vasodilation and mast cell degranulation mostly in the trigeminal vascular network

What is a CGRP antagonist?

- CGRP antagonists act on calcitonin gene-related peptide pathway to reduce migraine frequency, reduce headache days, and reduce need for additional headache medications
- Newer CGRP antagonists are monoclonal antibodies which bind to either the CGRP neuropeptide (Vyepti, Emgality, Ajovy) or its receptor (Aimovig)

How are CGRP antagonists administered?

-The newer CGRP antagonists are large molecules requiring parenteral administration, typically intramuscular injection ranging from every 1 to 3 months in an outpatient clinic setting

What are some of the side effects?

Common reported side effects include: upper respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, fatigue, arthralgia, and injection-site pain

Reference:
Mohanity D and Lippmann S. CGRP Inhibitors for Migraine. *Innov Clin Neurosci.* 2020;17(4–6):39–40.

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