

Pre-infusion medication:

- 100mg (IV) Methylprednisolone commenced 30-60 mins prior to infusion
- 1g Paracetamol 60 mins prior to infusion
- 4mg Chlorophenamine 60 mins prior to infusion

Rituximab:

1000mg in 250ml  
Sodium Chloride 0.9%

Placebo:

250ml Sodium Chloride  
0.9%

Initial dose rate: 50mg/hour for 30 minutes

No adverse events

1<sup>st</sup> infusion (week 0 and 24):

Dose escalated every 30 minutes in steps of 50mg/hr to 400mg/hour

2<sup>nd</sup> infusion (week 2 and 26):

Dose escalated every 30 minutes in steps of 100 mg/hr to 400mg/hour

Transient fever and rigours experienced

Infusion temporarily discontinued and treatment administered as required

If symptoms resolve, infusion recommences at half the previous rate

Post-infusion medication:

Oral prednisolone:

- 60mg on days 2-3 post infusion
- 30mg on days 4-5 post infusion
- 15mg on days 6-7 post infusion