






Quick Guide






Injectable Therapy

Disease-Modifying Therapies for Multiple Sclerosis

Avonex[®] (Interferon-beta-1a)

Dosing	Administration	Most Common Adverse Effects
 <p>1 injection into the muscle every week with prefilled syringe</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose is slowly increased in first month • Refrigerate; warm to room temperature 30 minutes before using • Routinely change the site of injection • Drink plenty of water and take pain reliever on day of injection 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu-like symptoms (fever/ chills, muscle aches and pains) • Injection reactions (redness, swelling, tissue damage, pain) • Headache • Depression/suicidal thinking may occur
Family Planning	Tests & Procedures Required	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice effective contraception • Avoid pregnancy or breastfeeding during treatment 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative pregnancy test before starting • Blood test (cell count, liver and thyroid function) before starting • Blood test monthly for first 6 months then every 6 months thereafter 	

Betaseron[®] / Extavia[®] (Interferon-beta-1b)






Dosing	Administration	Most Common Adverse Effects
 <p>1 injection under the skin every other day</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powder must be mixed before injecting • After mixing, unused drug must be refrigerated • Dose is slowly increased at start according to doctor's instructions • Routinely change the site of injection • Drink plenty of water and take pain reliever on day of injection 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu-like symptoms (fever/ chills, muscle aches and pains) • Injection reactions (redness, swelling, tissue damage, pain) • Headache • Depression/suicidal thinking may occur
Family Planning	Tests & Procedures Required	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice effective contraception • Avoid pregnancy or breastfeeding during treatment 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative pregnancy test before starting • Blood test (cell count, liver and thyroid function) before starting • Chest X-ray before starting • Electrocardiogram (ECG) before starting • Blood test (liver function) monthly for first 6 months then every 6 months thereafter • Periodic monitoring for impaired kidney function 	

Quick Guide






Injectable Therapy

Disease-Modifying Therapies for Multiple Sclerosis

Copaxone[®] / Glatect[™] (Glatiramer acetate)

Dosing	Administration	Most Common Adverse Effects
 <p>20 mg per day or 40 mg three times per week injected under the skin with a prefilled syringe</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syringe plunger indicates the dose: white = 20 mg, blue = 40 mg • Injections should be at least 12 hours apart (20 mg dose) or 48 hours apart (40 mg dose) • Routinely change the site of injection • Keep refrigerated. Can keep at room temperature for up to 1 month 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injection reactions (flushing, chest pain, palpitations, anxiety, difficulty breathing, rash) • Flushing • Rash, hives • Breathlessness • Chest pain • Skin denting at site of injection (lipoatrophy)
Family Planning		Tests & Procedures Required
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be taken up until pregnancy • May be taken during pregnancy if advised by doctor • Caution advised during breastfeeding 		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood test (liver function) before starting

Plegridy[™] (Peginterferon-beta-1a)






Dosing	Administration	Most Common Adverse Effects
 <p>1 injection under the skin every 14 days with prefilled syringe</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose is slowly increased in first month • Refrigerate; warm to room temperature 30 minutes before using • Routinely change the site of injection • Drink plenty of water and take pain reliever on day of injection 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu-like symptoms (fever/chills, muscle aches and pains) • Injection reactions (redness, swelling, tissue damage, pain) • Headache • Depression/suicidal thinking may occur
Family Planning		Tests & Procedures Required
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be taken during pregnancy if advised by doctor • Caution advised during breastfeeding 		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative pregnancy test before starting • Blood test (cell count, liver and thyroid function) before starting • Blood test monthly for first 6 months then every 6 months thereafter

Quick Guide

Injectable Therapy

Disease-Modifying Therapies for Multiple Sclerosis

Rebif® (Interferon-beta-1a)

Dosing	Administration	Most Common Adverse Effects
 <p>1 injection under the skin three times per week with prefilled syringe</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose is slowly increased in first month • Refrigerate; warm to room temperature 30 minutes before using • Routinely change the site of injection • Drink plenty of water and take pain reliever on day of injection 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu-like symptoms (fever/ chills, muscle aches and pains) • Injection reactions (redness, swelling, tissue damage, pain) • Stomach pain • Depression/suicidal thinking may occur
Family Planning		Tests & Procedures Required
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider stopping treatment during pregnancy • Caution advised during breastfeeding 		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative pregnancy test before starting • Blood test (cell count, liver and thyroid function) in months 1, 3 and 6 of treatment and periodically thereafter