

# INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS SUBMISSION PROCESS

## *Before submitting a manuscript, please gather the following information:*

- All Authors First Names, Middle Names/Initials, Last Names
- Author affiliations/Institutions
- Departments
- Phone and Fax Numbers
- Street Addresses
- E-mail Addresses
- Title and Running Title (you may copy and paste these from your manuscript) YOUR TITLE MUST BE UNDER 80 CHARACTERS (including spaces)

## **File Formats**

- Manuscript files in Word, WordPerfect, or Text formats

## **Figures Ideal resolution/Minimum resolution**

- Figures/Images in TIF, EPS, PDF, or JPG formats (must follow high resolution formats below)
- Line Bitmap 1200 dpi (ideal) 600 dpi (min)
- Color photo CMYK 300 dpi (ideal) 200 dpi (min)
- B/W halftone (black and white photo) Grayscale 300 dpi (ideal) 200 dpi (min)
- Line/halftone Grayscale 600 dpi (ideal) 200 dpi (min)

## **Tables**

- Tables accepted in XLS or DOC formats only.
- Type tables double-spaced on pages separate from the text.
- Provide a table number and title for each.
- Particular care should be taken in the preparation of tables to ensure that the data are presented clearly and concisely.
- Each column should have a short or abbreviated heading.
- Place explanatory matter in footnotes, not in the heading.
- Do not submit tables as photographs.

## **Cover Letter**

A cover letter is required and must state that the manuscript has not been published elsewhere, except in abstract form, and is not under simultaneous consideration by another journal.

Once a decision is made by the Editor on your manuscript, the Journal office will send you an Author Release form and a Conflict of Interest form only if your manuscript has been accepted for revision.

## **Abstracts**

For articles that require abstracts either Structured (250 words) or Unstructured (150 words), see website for Manuscript Category specifications.

Articles with structured abstracts should be submitted under conventional headings of introduction, methods and materials, results, discussion, but other headings will be considered if more suitable.

## **Acknowledgements**

Acknowledgements, including recognition of financial support, should be typed on a separate page at the end of the text.

The SI system (système international d'unités) should be used in reporting all laboratory data, even if originally reported in another system.

## **References**

- References should be numbered in the order of their citation in the text. Those cited only in tables and legends for illustrations are numbered according to the sequence established by the first identification in the text of a particular table or illustration.
- Titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in Index Medicus.

- List all authors when there are six or fewer; for seven or more, list only the first three and add "et al".
- Provide the full title, year of publication, volume number and inclusive pagination for journal articles.
- Unpublished articles should be cited as [in press]. Do not reference unpublished or "submitted" papers; these can be mentioned in the body of the text.
- Avoid "personal communications" and, if necessary, include them in the body of the text, not among the references.
- Reference citations should not include unpublished presentations or other non-accessible material.
- Books or chapter references should also include the place of publication and the name of the publisher.

For Uniform Requirements for Sample References go to [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html).

Examples of correct forms of reference:

### *Journals*

1. Rose ME, Huerbin MB, Melick J, et al. Regulation of interstitial excitatory amino acid concentrations after cortical contusion injury. *Brain Res.* 2002;935(1-2):40-6.

### *Chapter in a book*

1. Meltzer PS, Kallioniemi A, Trent JM. Chromosome alterations in human solid tumors. In: Vogelstein B, Kinzler KW, editors. *The genetic basis of human cancer*. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002. p. 93-113.

### **Permissions and Releases**

- Any non-original material (quotations, tables, figures) must be accompanied by written permission from the author and the copyright owner to reproduce the material in the Journal.
- Photographs of recognizable persons must be accompanied by a signed release from the legal guardian or patient authorizing publication.

### **Conflict of Interest**

Authors who have non-scientific or non-academic gain, whether it be financial or other, from publishing their article are responsible for declaring it to the Editor. Any financial interest, research grant, material support, or consulting fee associated with the contents of the manuscript must be declared to the Editor.

These guidelines apply to each author and their immediate families. Conflicts of interest are not necessarily wrong, nor do they necessarily change the scientific validity of research or opinion, but the Journal and readers should be aware of the conflict. If the Editor considers the conflict to compromise the validity of the paper, it will not be accepted for publication.

Authors, editorial staff and reviewers are asked to declare any relationship that would be considered as a conflict of interest whether or not they believe that a conflict actually exists.

Information that the Journal receives about conflict or potential conflict will be kept confidential unless the Editor or Associate Editor considers it to be important to readers. Such conflicts will be published in the author credits or as a footnote to the paper, with knowledge of the authors.

*For detailed instructions regarding style and layout refer to "Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals". Copies of this document may be obtained on the website <http://www.icmje.org>.*

After the manuscript is submitted, you will be asked to select the order you would like the files to be displayed in a merged PDF file that the system will create for you.

# INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS SUBMISSION PROCESS (continued)

Next, you will be directed to a page that will allow you to review your converted manuscript. If the conversion is not correct, you can replace or delete your manuscript files as necessary.

You may also add additional files at this time. After you have reviewed the converted files, you will need to click on "Approve Converted Files." This link will have a red arrow next to it. Throughout the system, red arrows reflect pending action items that you should address.

## Getting Help

If you need additional help, you can click on the help signs spread throughout the system. A help dialog will pop up with context-sensitive help.

## Manuscript Status

After you approve your manuscript, you are finished with the submission process.

You can access the status of your manuscript at any time via:

Logging into the AllenTrack system with your password

Clicking on the link represented by your manuscript tracking number and abbreviated title

Clicking on the "Check Status" link at the bottom of the displayed page

This procedure will display detailed tracking information about where your manuscript is in the submission/peer-review process.

## Manuscript Categories include:

- Review Article\*
- Original Article\*
- Historical Article\*
- Editorial
- Neuroimaging Highlights\*
- Critically Appraised Topics (CATs)
- Brief Communications
- Reflections
- Obituary
- Letters to the Editor
- Medical Hypothesis
- Commentary
- Experimental Neuroscience
- Autobiographies (by invitation only)
- In the Spotlight: Featuring Resident and Fellow Authors (January 2012)

\* preferred Manuscript Category

## Starting

The manuscript submission process starts by pressing the "Submit Manuscript" link. Please make sure you have gathered all the required manuscript information listed above BEFORE starting the submission process.

<http://cjns.allentrack.net/cgi-bin/main.plex>

*To view and download General Manuscript Specifications, applicable to all Manuscript Categories, in addition to the specifications of a specific Manuscript Category, please visit <http://www.cjns.org> and click the "Authors" tab on the right side of the Journal website.*

All editorial matter in the CJNS represents the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF). The CNSF assumes no responsibility or liability for damages arising from any error or omission or from the use of any information or advice contained in the CJNS.



## ADVERTISERS INDEX

<b>Allergan Canada</b>	<i>Botox</i>	A-3, PI A-15 to A-17
<b>Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario</b>	<i>Chief of Paediatric Neurosurgery position</i>	A-23
<b>CNSF Congress Sponsors</b>	<i>2012 Sponsors</i>	IFC
<b>CNSF Medlearn</b>	<i>e-learning Information</i>	A-22
<b>King Medical</b>	<i>Medical Supplies</i>	A-23
<b>Novartis</b>	<i>Afinitor</i>	Insert / PI A-24 to A-26
<b>Pfizer</b>	<i>Lyrica</i>	A-4, A-5 PI A-13, A-14
<b>Scotiabank</b>	<i>Scotia Professional Plan</i>	A-7
<b>Therapath</b>	<i>Diagnostic Services</i>	OBC
<b>University of Manitoba</b>	<i>Epileptologist position</i>	A-22
<b>UCB Canada</b>	<i>Vimpat</i>	Tip-on/A-8, A-9 / PI A-18 to A-21





### PRESCRIBING SUMMARY



### PATIENT SELECTION CRITERIA

### THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION

Analgesic Agent

### INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

LYRICA (pregabalin) is indicated for the management of neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy, postherpetic neuralgia and spinal cord injury. LYRICA is indicated for the management of pain associated with fibromyalgia. The efficacy of LYRICA in the management of pain associated with fibromyalgia for up to 6 months was demonstrated in a placebo-controlled trial in patients who had initially responded to LYRICA during a 6-week open-label phase.

### Use in Special Populations

**Geriatrics (>65 years of age):** Pregabalin oral clearance tended to decrease with increasing age. This decrease in pregabalin oral clearance is consistent with age-related decreases in creatinine clearance. Reduction of pregabalin dose may be required in patients who have age-related compromised renal function (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Geriatrics** [*>65 years of age*]).

**Pediatrics (<18 years of age):** The safety and efficacy of pregabalin in pediatric patients (<18 years of age) have not been established.

**Renal:** There have been reports of patients, with or without previous history, experiencing renal failure while receiving pregabalin alone or in combination with other medications. Discontinuation of pregabalin showed reversibility of this event in some cases (see Product Monograph, **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS; ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Marketing Adverse Drug Reactions; and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**). Because pregabalin is eliminated primarily by renal excretion, the dose of pregabalin should be adjusted as noted for elderly patients or those with renal impairment (see Product Monograph, **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

**Pregnant Women:** There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Pregabalin should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

**Labour and Delivery:** The effects of pregabalin on labour and delivery in pregnant women are unknown.

**Nursing Women:** It is not known if pregabalin is excreted in human breast milk; however, it is present in the milk of rats. Because of the potential for adverse reactions in nursing infants from pregabalin, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

Patients who are hypersensitive to pregabalin or to any ingredient in the formulation or component of the container.



### SAFETY INFORMATION

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

**Angioedema:** There have been post-marketing reports of angioedema in patients, some without reported previous history/episode(s), during initial/acute and chronic treatment with LYRICA. Specific symptoms included swelling of the face, mouth (tongue, lips, and gums), neck, throat, and larynx/upper airway. There have been reports of life-threatening angioedema with respiratory compromise requiring emergency treatment. Some of these patients did not have reported previous history/episode(s) of angioedema. LYRICA should be immediately discontinued in patients with these symptoms. During the pre-marketing assessment of pregabalin in clinical trials, angioedema was reported as a rare reaction (see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions and Post-Marketing Adverse Drug Reactions**).

Caution should be exercised when prescribing LYRICA to patients with previous history/episode(s) of angioedema and related events. In addition, patients who are taking other drugs associated with angioedema (eg, ACE-inhibitors) may be at increased risk of developing this condition.

**Hypersensitivity:** There have been post-marketing reports of hypersensitivity reactions (e.g. skin redness, blisters, hives, rash, dyspnea, and wheezing). Pregabalin should be discontinued immediately if such symptoms occur (see Product Monograph, **Post-Marketing Adverse Drug Reactions**).

**Renal Failure:** In both clinical trials of various indications and post-marketing database, there are reports of patients, with or without previous history, experiencing renal failure while receiving pregabalin alone or in combination with other medications. Discontinuation of pregabalin should be considered as it has shown reversibility of this event in some cases. Caution is advised when prescribing pregabalin to the elderly or those with any degree of renal impairment (see Product Monograph, **Special Populations, Renal; Abrupt or Rapid Discontinuation; ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Marketing Adverse Drug Reactions; and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

**Tumorigenic Potential:** In standard preclinical in vivo lifetime carcinogenicity studies of pregabalin, a high incidence of hemangiosarcoma was identified in two different strains of mice. The clinical significance of this finding is uncertain. Clinical experience during pregabalin's premarketing development provides no direct means to assess its potential for inducing tumors in humans.

**Ophthalmological Effects:** In controlled studies, pregabalin treatment was associated with vision-related adverse events such as blurred vision (amblyopia) (6% pregabalin and 2% placebo) and diplopia (2% pregabalin and 0.5% placebo). Approximately 1% of pregabalin-treated patients discontinued treatment due to vision-related adverse events (primarily blurred vision). Of the patients who did not withdraw, the blurred vision resolved with continued dosing in approximately half of the cases (see Product Monograph, **Post-Marketing Adverse Drug Reactions**).

Patients should be informed that if changes in vision occur, they should notify their physician.

**Peripheral Edema:** LYRICA may cause peripheral edema. In controlled peripheral neuropathic pain and fibromyalgia clinical trials, pregabalin treatment caused peripheral edema in 9% of patients compared with 3% of patients in the placebo group. In these studies, 0.7% of pregabalin patients and 0.3% of placebo patients withdrew due to peripheral edema (see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Peripheral Edema**).

In controlled clinical trials of up to 13 weeks in duration of patients without clinically significant heart or peripheral vascular disease, there was no apparent association between peripheral edema and cardiovascular complications such as hypertension or congestive heart failure. In the same trials, peripheral edema was not associated with laboratory changes suggestive of deterioration in renal or hepatic function.

Higher frequencies of weight gain and peripheral edema were observed in patients taking both LYRICA and a thiazolidinedione antidiabetic agent compared to patients taking either drug alone. As the thiazolidinedione class of antidiabetic drugs can cause weight gain and/or fluid retention, possibly exacerbating or leading to heart failure, care should be taken when co-administering LYRICA and these agents.

**Congestive Heart Failure:** In controlled clinical studies, events of congestive heart failure were reported at an infrequent rate (between 0.1% and 1%; see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions**).

There have been post-marketing reports of congestive heart failure in some patients receiving pregabalin (see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-marketing Adverse Drug Reactions**). Although this adverse reaction has mostly been observed in elderly cardiovascular-compromised patients during pregabalin treatment for a neuropathic pain indication, some cases have occurred in patients without reported edema or previous history of cardiovascular disease. Pregabalin should be used with caution in these patients. Discontinuation of pregabalin may resolve the reaction.

**Gastrointestinal:** There have been post-marketing reports of events related to reduced lower gastrointestinal tract function (eg. intestinal obstruction, paralytic ileus, and constipation) in patients, some without reported previous history/episode(s), during initial/acute and chronic treatment with LYRICA, primarily in combination with other

medications that have the potential to produce constipation. Some of these events were considered serious and required hospitalization. In a number of instances, patients were taking opioid analgesics including tramadol.

Caution should be exercised when LYRICA and opioid analgesics are used in combination, and measures to prevent constipation may be considered, especially in female patients and elderly as they may be at increased risk of experiencing lower gastrointestinal-related events (see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Marketing Adverse Drug Reactions**).

**Weight Gain:** LYRICA may cause weight gain. In pregabalin-controlled peripheral neuropathic pain and fibromyalgia clinical trials with durations of up to 14 weeks, a gain of 7% or more over baseline weight was observed in 8% of pregabalin-treated patients and 3% of placebo-treated patients. Few patients treated with pregabalin (0.6%) withdrew from controlled trials due to weight gain (see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Weight Gain**).

Pregabalin-associated weight gain was related to dose and duration of exposure. Pregabalin-associated weight gain did not appear to be associated with baseline BMI, gender, or age. Weight gain was not limited to patients with edema and was not necessarily due to edema-related events (see Product Monograph, **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Peripheral Edema**).

Although weight gain was not associated with clinically important changes in blood pressure in short-term controlled studies, the long-term cardiovascular effects of pregabalin-associated weight gain are unknown.

While the effects of pregabalin-associated weight gain on glycemic control have not been systematically assessed, in controlled and longer-term open-label clinical trials with diabetic patients, pregabalin treatment did not appear to be associated with loss of glycemic control (as measured by HbA<sub>1c</sub>).

**Dizziness and Somnolence:** LYRICA may cause dizziness and somnolence. In controlled studies, pregabalin caused dizziness in 32% of patients compared to 8% in placebo. Somnolence was experienced by 17% and 4% of the patients treated with pregabalin and placebo, respectively. These events begin shortly after the initiation of therapy and generally occur more frequently at higher doses. In these studies, dizziness and somnolence led to withdrawal of 5% (placebo: 0.5%) and 3% (placebo: 0.1%) of the pregabalin-treated patients, respectively. For the remaining patients who experienced these events, dizziness and somnolence persisted until the last dose of pregabalin in 35% and 49% of the patients, respectively (see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Tables 2, 4, and 11, and Post-Marketing Adverse Drug Reactions**).

**Abrupt or Rapid Discontinuation:** Following abrupt or rapid discontinuation of pregabalin, some patients reported symptoms including insomnia, nausea, headache, anxiety, hyperhidrosis and diarrhea. Pregabalin should be tapered gradually over a minimum of one week rather than discontinued abruptly (see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Adverse Events Following Abrupt or Rapid Discontinuation**).

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

*Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions, the adverse reaction rates observed in clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and for approximating rates.*

### Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

**Most Common Adverse Events in All Pre-marketing Controlled Clinical Studies of Neuropathic Pain:** The most commonly observed adverse events ( $\geq 5\%$  and twice the rate of that seen in placebo) in pregabalin-treated patients were: dizziness, somnolence, peripheral edema, and dry mouth. Adverse events were usually mild to moderate in intensity.

**Adverse Events from a Controlled Clinical Study in Neuropathic Pain Associated with Spinal Cord Injury:** The most commonly observed treatment-related adverse events ( $\geq 5\%$  and twice the rate of that seen in placebo) in pregabalin-treated patients were: somnolence, dizziness, asthenia, dry mouth, edema, myasthenia, constipation, thinking abnormal, amblyopia, and amnesia. Adverse events were usually mild to moderate in intensity.



**Most Common Adverse Events in Controlled Clinical Studies in Fibromyalgia:** The most commonly observed treatment-related adverse events ( $\geq 5\%$  and twice the rate of that seen in placebo) in pregabalin-treated patients were: dizziness (37.5%), somnolence (18.6%), weight gain (10.6%), dry mouth (7.9%), blurred vision (6.7%), peripheral edema (6.1%), constipation (5.8%), and disturbance in attention (5.3%). Adverse events were usually mild to moderate in intensity.

To monitor drug safety, Health Canada collects information on serious and unexpected effects of drugs. If you suspect a patient has had a serious or unexpected reaction to this drug, you may notify Health Canada by telephone: 1-866-234-2345.

## ADMINISTRATION

### DOSING CONSIDERATIONS

#### Patients with Impaired Renal Function

Pregabalin is primarily eliminated from the systemic circulation by renal excretion as unchanged drug. In some elderly patients and those with a medical history of significant renal insufficiency, daily dosages should be reduced accordingly (see Table in Supplemental Product Information).

#### Adults

**Neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia:** The recommended starting dose for LYRICA is 150 mg/day, given in two or three divided doses (75 mg BID or 50 mg TID), with or without food in patients with a creatinine clearance rate of at least 60 mL/min. Efficacy of LYRICA has been demonstrated within the first week. Based on individual patient response and tolerability, the dose may be increased to 150 mg BID (300 mg/day) after one week.

For patients who experience significant and ongoing pain and can tolerate pregabalin 300 mg/day well, maximum daily dose of 600 mg (300 mg twice a day, BID) can be used. However, in clinical trials, LYRICA 600 mg/day did not provide additional significant efficacy and patients treated with this dose experienced markedly higher rates of adverse events and discontinued the trial more frequently (see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS**, Tables 1 and 5). Doses above 600 mg/day have not been studied and are not recommended.

**Neuropathic pain associated with spinal cord injury:** The recommended starting dose for LYRICA is 150 mg/day, given in two divided doses (75 mg BID), with or without food in patients with a creatinine clearance rate of at least 60 mL/min. Efficacy of LYRICA has been demonstrated within the first week. Based on individual patient response and tolerability, the dose may be increased to 150 mg BID (300 mg/day) after one week.

For patients who experience significant and ongoing pain and can tolerate pregabalin 300 mg/day well, a maximum daily dose of 600 mg (300 mg twice a day, BID) may be considered. Doses above 600 mg/day have not been studied and are not recommended.

**Pain associated with fibromyalgia:** The recommended dosage is 300 to 450 mg/day, given in two divided doses. The recommended starting dose for LYRICA is 150 mg/day, given in two divided doses (75 mg BID), with or without food in patients with a creatinine clearance rate of at least 60 mL/min. Based on individual response and tolerability, the dose may be increased to 150 mg BID (300 mg/day) after one week. Patients who do not experience sufficient benefit with 300 mg/day may be further increased to 225 mg BID (450 mg/day). In some patients, efficacy of LYRICA has been demonstrated within the first week.

For patients who experience significant and ongoing pain and can tolerate pregabalin 300 mg/day well, maximum daily dose of 600 mg (300 mg twice a day, BID) can be used. However, in clinical trials of fibromyalgia, LYRICA 600 mg/day did not provide additional significant efficacy and patients treated with this dose experienced significantly higher rates of adverse events and discontinued the trial more frequently (see Product Monograph, **ADVERSE REACTIONS**, Tables 7 and 10). In view of the dose-related adverse events, the decision to treat patients with doses above 450 mg/day should be based on clinical judgment of the treating physician. Doses above 600 mg/day have not been studied and are not recommended.

## ADMINISTRATION

LYRICA is given orally with or without food.



## STUDY REFERENCES

### References:

- LYRICA Product Monograph, Pfizer Canada Inc., June 21, 2010.
- Moulin DE *et al.* Pharmacological management of chronic neuropathic pain – consensus statement and guidelines from the Canadian Pain Society. *Pain Res Manage* 2007;12:13-21.
- Arnold LM *et al.* A 14-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled monotherapy trial of pregabalin in patients with fibromyalgia. *J Pain* 2008;9:792-805.
- 14-week, randomized, double-blind, multiple-dose, placebo-controlled, multicentre study. 745 patients who had moderate-to-severe pain, i.e. mean baseline score (mean of the last 7 daily diary pain scores prior to study medication) of  $\geq 4$ , and a diagnosis of fibromyalgia based on the ACR criteria. This study used an enriched population as placebo responders ( $\geq 30\%$  reduction in mean pain scores) during the one-week run-in phase were discontinued and did not enter the double-blind phase. 1.6% of patients screened ( $n=19/1,195$ ) were reported to be placebo responders. Patients were randomized to LYRICA 300 mg/day ( $n=183$ ), 450 mg/day ( $n=190$ ), 600 mg/day ( $n=188$ ), or placebo ( $n=184$ ). Patients were allowed to take acetaminophen up to 4 g/day as needed for pain relief. The number of completers was: LYRICA 300 mg/day ( $n=123$ ), 450 mg/day ( $n=125$ ), 600 mg/day ( $n=113$ ), or placebo ( $n=125$ ). The primary endpoint was the reduction in endpoint mean pain scores. Pain scores rated on 11-point numerical scale from 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst possible pain) during the past 24 hours. Mean baseline pain scores were 6.7 for LYRICA 300 mg/day, 6.7 for 450 mg/day, 6.8 for 600 mg/day, and 6.6 for placebo.
- Crofford LJ *et al.* Fibromyalgia relapse evaluation and efficacy for durability of meaningful relief (FREEDOM): a 6-month, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial with pregabalin. *Pain* 2008;136:419-31.
- 26-week, long-term relapse observation study. Patients who met the ACR criteria for fibromyalgia and who had a score of  $\geq 4$  on the pain Visual Analog Scale (VAS) were eligible to enter a 6-week, open-label, dose-optimization phase. During this phase, patients were titrated up to a total daily dose of 300 mg, 450 mg, or 600 mg. 566 LYRICA responders were randomized in the double-blind phase to either their optimized LYRICA dose ( $n=279$ ) or to placebo ( $n=287$ ). 38% of LYRICA responders completed 26 weeks of treatment vs 19% on placebo. The primary endpoint was time to loss of therapeutic response. Loss of therapeutic response was defined as having either a  $<30\%$  reduction in pain VAS score, or worsening of symptoms necessitating alternate treatment. Responders were defined as having a  $\geq 50\%$  reduction in pain on the VAS and self-rating on the Patient Global Impression of Change scale of "much improved" or "very much improved".
- Freynhagen R *et al.* Efficacy of pregabalin in neuropathic pain evaluated in a 12-week, randomised, double-blind, multicentre, placebo-controlled trial of flexible- and fixed-dose regimens. *Pain* 2005;115:254-63.
- In a 12-week, multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study, 338 patients with either DPN ( $n=249$ ) or PHN ( $n=89$ ) were randomized to receive BID flexible-dose pregabalin (150-600 mg/day), fixed-dose pregabalin (600 mg/day) or placebo. In the flexible-dose arm, dose could be adjusted up or down over the first four weeks based on patients' individual response and tolerability. The primary efficacy measurement was mean pain score at endpoint, derived from ratings recorded by patients in a daily diary on an 11-point numerical pain rating scale (0=no pain, 10=worst possible pain). A significant difference in pain scores versus placebo was seen in the flexible dose range 150-600 mg/day ( $p \leq 0.05$ , weeks 2-3 and  $p \leq 0.01$ , weeks 4-12), and the fixed dose of 600 mg/day ( $p \leq 0.05$ , week 1 and  $p \leq 0.01$ , weeks 2-12).
- Mease PJ *et al.* A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III trial of pregabalin in the treatment of patients with fibromyalgia. *J Rheumatol* 2008;35:502-14.
- Multicentre, double-blind, 13-week, randomized trial. 748 patients who met the ACR criteria for fibromyalgia and who had an average mean pain score of  $\geq 4$  on an 11-point numeric rating scale (NRS) during the baseline assessment were randomized to LYRICA 300 mg/day ( $n=185$ ), 450 mg/day ( $n=183$ ), 600 mg/day ( $n=190$ ), or placebo ( $n=190$ ). Patients were allowed to take acetaminophen up to 4 g/day as needed for pain relief. The number of completers was: LYRICA 300 mg/day ( $n=123$ ), 450 mg/day ( $n=121$ ), 600 mg/day ( $n=111$ ), or placebo ( $n=130$ ). The primary endpoint was the reduction in endpoint mean pain scores (mean of the last 7 daily pain scores while on study medication). Pain-related sleep difficulties were assessed using the Medical Outcomes Study-Sleep Scale (MOS-SS), a scale that runs from 0-100. Mean baseline MOS-SS score for overall sleep problem index was 65.0.

## SUPPLEMENTAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

### Warnings and Precaution

See the Product Monograph for further information on the following: tumorigenic potential, ophthalmological effects, peripheral edema, congestive heart failure, weight gain, dizziness and somnolence, sexual function/reproduction, and special populations.

### Drug Interactions

**Overview:** Since pregabalin is predominately excreted unchanged in the urine, undergoes negligible metabolism in humans ( $\leq 2\%$  of a dose recovered in urine as metabolites), does not inhibit drug metabolism in vitro, and is not bound to plasma proteins, LYRICA (pregabalin) is unlikely to produce, or be subject to, pharmacokinetic interactions.

**Drug Abuse and Dependence/Liability:** Pregabalin is not known to be active at receptor sites associated with drugs of abuse. As with any CNS active drug, physicians should carefully evaluate patients for history of drug abuse and observe them for signs of LYRICA misuse or abuse (e.g., development of tolerance, dose escalation, drug-seeking behaviour).

### ADMINISTRATION

**Dosage Adjustment Based on Renal Function:** Dosing adjustment should be based on creatinine clearance ( $Cl_{cr}$ ), as indicated in Table 1. Pregabalin is effectively removed from plasma by hemodialysis. Over a 4-hour hemodialysis treatment, plasma pregabalin concentrations are reduced by approximately 50%. For patients receiving hemodialysis, pregabalin daily dose should be adjusted based on renal function. In addition to the daily dose adjustment, a supplemental dose should be given immediately following every 4-hour hemodialysis treatment (see Table below).

Table 1. Pregabalin Dosage Adjustment Based on Renal Function

Creatinine Clearance ( $Cl_{cr}$ ) (mL/min)	Total Pregabalin Daily Dose (mg/day) <sup>a</sup> Recommended Dose Escalation*				Dose Regimen
	Starting dose	up to	Maximum daily dose		
$\geq 60$	150	300	450	600	BID or TID
30-60	75	150	225	300	BID or TID
15-30	25-50	75	100-150	150	QD or BID
$<15$	25	25-50	50-75	75	QD

### Supplementary dosage following hemodialysis (mg)<sup>b</sup>

Patients on the 25 mg QD regimen: take one supplemental dose of 25 mg or 50 mg  
 Patients on the 25-50 mg QD regimen: take one supplemental dose of 50 mg or 75 mg  
 Patients on the 50-75 mg QD regimen: take one supplemental dose of 75 mg or 100 mg  
 Patients on the 75 mg QD regimen: take one supplemental dose of 100 mg or 150 mg

TID = Three divided doses; BID = Two divided doses; QD = Single daily dose.

\* Based on individual patient response and tolerability.

<sup>a</sup> Total daily dose (mg/day) should be divided as indicated by dose regimen to provide mg/dose.

<sup>b</sup> Supplementary dose is a single additional dose.

### Overdose

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.

### Signs, Symptoms and Laboratory Findings of Acute Overdose in Humans:

The highest known dose of pregabalin received in the clinical development program in which there was no fatal outcome was 15,000 mg in 1 patient. The types of adverse events experienced by patients who received an overdose were not clinically different from other patients receiving recommended doses of pregabalin. In post-marketing experience, fatal outcomes in cases in which pregabalin has been taken in combination with other medications have been reported with a pregabalin overdose as low as 800 mg in a day. In none of these cases has pregabalin been established as the cause of death or in pregabalin monotherapy. The lowest fatal dose with pregabalin alone has not yet been identified.

The most commonly reported adverse events observed when pregabalin was taken in overdose (dose range from 800 mg/day up to 11,500 mg as a single dose) included affective disorder, somnolence, confusional state, depression, agitation, and restlessness.

**Treatment or Management of Overdose:** There is no specific antidote for overdose with pregabalin. If indicated, elimination of unabsorbed drug may be attempted by emesis or gastric lavage; usual precautions should be observed to maintain the airway. General supportive care of the patient is indicated including monitoring of vital signs and observation of the clinical status of the patient. A Certified Poison Control Center should be contacted for up-to-date information on the management of overdose with pregabalin.

**Hemodialysis:** Standard hemodialysis procedures result in significant clearance of pregabalin (approximately 50% in 4 hours) and should be considered in cases of overdose. Although hemodialysis has not been performed in the few known cases of overdose, it may be indicated by the patient's clinical state or in patients with significant renal impairment.

### Availability of Dosage Forms

LYRICA is available in dosage strengths of 25 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg, 100 mg\*, 150 mg, 200 mg\*, 225 mg, and 300 mg capsules.

\* Not commercially available in Canada

For a copy of the Product Monograph or full Prescribing Information, please contact: Pfizer Canada Medical Information at 1-800-463-6001 or visit [www.pfizer.ca](http://www.pfizer.ca).



Working together for a healthier world™

©2010  
 Pfizer Canada Inc.  
 Kirkland, Quebec  
 H9J 2M5

™ Pfizer Inc., used under license  
 LYRICA® C.P. Pharmaceuticals International C.V.  
 owner/Pfizer Canada Inc., Licensee



Patients or caregivers should be advised to seek immediate medical care if swallowing, speech or respiratory disorders arise.

Patients with a history of underlying neurological disorders, dysphagia and/or aspiration should be treated with extreme caution. The botulinum toxin product should be used under specialist supervision in these patients and should only be used if the benefit of treatment is considered to outweigh the risk.

Injection specific dosage and administration recommendations should be followed. In treating adult patients, including when combining indications, the maximum cumulative dose should generally not exceed 360 Units, up to a maximum of 6 U/kg, in a 3 month interval. In treating pediatric patients, the maximum cumulative dose should generally not exceed 6 Units/kg, up to a maximum of 200 Units, in a 3 month interval.

The primary release procedure for BOTOX<sup>®</sup> uses a cell-based potency assay to determine the potency relative to a reference standard. The assay is specific to Allergan's product BOTOX<sup>®</sup>. One Allergan Unit (U) of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> corresponds to the calculated median intraperitoneal lethal dose (LD<sub>50</sub>) in mice. Due to specific details of this assay such as the vehicle, dilution scheme and laboratory protocols, Units of biological activity of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> cannot be compared to nor converted into Units of any other botulinum toxin or any toxin assessed with any other specific assay method. The specific activity of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> is approximately 20 Units/nanogram of neurotoxin protein complex.

This product contains human serum albumin, a derivative of human blood. Based on effective donor screening and product manufacturing processes, it carries an extremely remote risk for transmission of viral diseases. A theoretical risk for transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) also is considered extremely remote. No cases of transmission of viral diseases or CJD have ever been identified for albumin.

*Dynamic equinus foot deformity due to spasticity in pediatric cerebral palsy* – BOTOX<sup>®</sup> is a treatment of spasticity that has only been studied in association with usual standard of care regimens, and is not intended as a replacement for these treatment modalities. BOTOX<sup>®</sup> is not likely to be effective in improving range of motion at a joint affected by a fixed contracture.

No efficacy has been shown for BOTOX<sup>®</sup> in the prophylaxis of headaches in patients with episodic migraine (< 15 headache days per month).

#### Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

Studies in animals have not been performed to evaluate the carcinogenic potential of BOTOX<sup>®</sup>. BOTOX<sup>®</sup> was not mutagenic in *in vitro* and *in vivo* mutagenicity studies.

#### Cardiovascular

There have been rare reports following administration of botulinum toxin of adverse events involving the cardiovascular system, including arrhythmia and myocardial infarction, some with fatal outcomes. Some of these patients had risk factors including pre-existing cardiovascular disease. The exact relationship of these events to BOTOX<sup>®</sup>/BOTOX COSMETIC<sup>®</sup> is unknown.

#### Ear/Nose/Throat

*Cervical Dystonia*—Dysphagia is a commonly reported adverse event following treatment of cervical dystonia patients with all types of botulinum toxins. Patients with cervical dystonia should be informed of the possibility of experiencing dysphagia which may be mild, but could be severe. Consequent to the dysphagia there is the potential for aspiration, dyspnea and occasionally the need for tube feeding. In rare cases, dysphagia followed by aspiration pneumonia and death has been reported.

Injections into the levator scapulae may be associated with an increased risk of upper respiratory infection and dysphagia.

Dysphagia has contributed to decreased food and water intake resulting in weight loss and dehydration. Patients with subclinical dysphagia may be at increased risk of experiencing more severe dysphagia following a BOTOX<sup>®</sup> injection.

Limiting the dose injected into both sternocleidomastoid muscles to less than 100 units may decrease the occurrence of dysphagia. Patients with smaller neck muscle mass, or patients who receive bilateral injections into the sternocleidomastoid muscle, have been reported to be at greater risk of dysphagia. Dysphagia is attributable to the localized diffusion of the toxin to the oesophageal musculature.

Patients or caregivers should be advised to seek immediate medical care if swallowing, speech or respiratory disorders arise.

#### Immune

Formation of neutralizing antibodies to botulinum toxin type A may reduce the effectiveness of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> treatment by inactivating the biological activity of the toxin. The critical factors for neutralizing antibody formation have not been well characterized. The results from some studies suggest that BOTOX<sup>®</sup> injections at more frequent intervals or at higher doses may lead to greater incidence of antibody formation. When appropriate, the potential for antibody formation may be minimized by injecting with the lowest effective dose given at the longest feasible intervals between injections.

As with all biologic products, an anaphylactic reaction may occur. Necessary precautions should be taken and epinephrine should be available.

Serious and/or immediate hypersensitivity reactions such as anaphylaxis and serum sickness have been rarely reported, as well as other manifestations of hypersensitivity including urticaria, soft tissue edema, and dyspnea. Some of these reactions have been reported following the use of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> either alone or in conjunction with other products associated with similar reactions. One fatal case of anaphylaxis has been reported in which lidocaine was used as the diluent for BOTOX<sup>®</sup> and consequently the causal agent cannot be reliably determined. If such a reaction occurs, further injection should be discontinued and appropriate medical therapy immediately.

#### Neurologic

Extreme caution should be exercised when administering BOTOX<sup>®</sup> to individuals with peripheral motor neuropathic diseases (e.g. amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or motor neuropathy) or neuromuscular junction disorders (e.g. myasthenia gravis or Lambert-Eaton syndrome). Patients with neuromuscular junction disorders may be at increased risk of clinically significant systemic effects including severe dysphagia and respiratory compromise from typical doses of BOTOX<sup>®</sup>. There have been rare cases of administration of botulinum toxin to patients with known or unrecognized neuromuscular junction disorders where the patients have shown extreme sensitivity to the systemic effects of typical clinical doses. In some of these cases, dysphagia has lasted several months and required placement of a gastric feeding tube.

**When exposed to very high doses, patients with neurologic disorders, e.g. pediatric cerebral palsy or adult spasticity, may also be at increased risk of clinically significant systemic effects.**

New onset or recurrent seizures have been reported, typically in patients who are predisposed to experiencing these events. The reports in children were reports predominantly from cerebral palsy patients treated for spasticity. The exact relationship of these events to the botulinum toxin injection has not been established.



## Prescribing Summary



### Patient Selection Criteria

#### Neuromuscular Paralytic Agent

##### INDICATIONS

BOTOX<sup>®</sup> (onabotulinumtoxinA for injection) is indicated:

- for prophylaxis of headaches in adults with chronic migraine (≥ 15 days per month with headache lasting 4 hours a day or longer).

##### CONTRAINDICATIONS

BOTOX<sup>®</sup> is contraindicated in:

- patients who are hypersensitive to botulinum toxin type A or to any ingredient in the formulation or component of the container. For a complete listing of the ingredients, see the Dosage Forms, Composition and Packaging section of the product monograph.
- the presence of infection at the proposed injection site(s).

##### USE IN SPECIAL POPULATIONS

**Pregnant Women:** There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> administration in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity. The potential risk for humans is unknown. BOTOX<sup>®</sup> should not be used during pregnancy unless clearly necessary. If this drug is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, the patient should be apprised of the potential risks, including abortion or fetal malformations, which have been observed in rabbits.

**Nursing Women:** It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when BOTOX<sup>®</sup> is administered to a nursing woman.

**Pediatrics (2–18 years of age):** There have been very rare spontaneous reports of death sometimes associated with aspiration pneumonia in children with severe cerebral palsy after treatment with botulinum toxin. A causal association to BOTOX<sup>®</sup> has not been established in these cases. Post-marketing reports of possible distant spread of toxin have been very rarely reported in pediatric patients with co-morbidities, predominantly with cerebral palsy, who received >8 U/kg. Extreme caution should be exercised when treating pediatric patients who have significant neurologic debility, dysphagia, or have a recent history of aspiration pneumonia or lung disease.

The safety and effectiveness of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> in the prophylaxis of headaches in chronic migraine has not been investigated in children and adolescents under 18 years of age.

**Geriatrics (> 65 years of age):** Studies specifically designed to determine dose in elderly patients have not been performed. Dosages for the elderly are as for other adults. Initial dosing should begin at the lowest recommended dose for the specific indication.

The safety and effectiveness of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> in the prophylaxis of headaches in chronic migraine has not been investigated in subjects over 65 years of age.



## Safety Information

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

#### Serious Warnings and Precautions

- The term "Allergan unit" upon which dosing is based is a specific measurement of toxin activity that is unique to Allergan's formulation of botulinum toxin type A. Therefore, the "Allergan units" used to describe BOTOX<sup>®</sup> activity are different from those used to describe that of other botulinum toxin preparations and the units representing BOTOX<sup>®</sup> activity are not interchangeable with other products.
- BOTOX<sup>®</sup> should only be given by physicians with the appropriate qualifications and experience in the treatment and the use of required equipment.
- Follow the recommended dosage and frequency of administration for BOTOX<sup>®</sup>. (See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, General, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

#### General

Use BOTOX<sup>®</sup> only as directed.

Do not use dosage recommendations and potency Units applied to other botulinum toxin products when using BOTOX<sup>®</sup>.

The safe and effective use of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> (onabotulinumtoxinA for injection) depends upon proper storage of the product, selection of the correct dose, and proper reconstitution and administration techniques.

Physicians administering BOTOX<sup>®</sup> should be familiar with the relevant anatomy of the area involved and any alterations to the anatomy due to prior surgical procedures. An understanding of standard electromyographic techniques is also required for treatment of strabismus, and may be useful for the treatment of cervical dystonia, and focal spasticity associated with pediatric cerebral palsy and upper limb spasticity in adults.

Caution should be used when BOTOX<sup>®</sup> is used in the presence of inflammation at the proposed injection site(s) or when excessive weakness or atrophy is present in the target muscle.

Muscle weakness remote to the site of injection and other serious adverse effects (e.g. dysphagia, aspiration pneumonia) have been rarely reported in both pediatric and adult patients, in some cases associated with a fatal outcome.



## Skin

As is expected for any injection procedure, localized pain, inflammation, paresthesia, hypoesthesia, tenderness, swelling/edema, erythema, localized infection, bleeding and/or bruising have been associated with the injection. Needle-related pain and/or anxiety have resulted in vasovagal responses, including transient symptomatic hypotension and syncope. Care should be taken when injecting near vulnerable anatomic structures.

**Primary hyperhidrosis of the axillae**—Medical history and physical examination, along with specific additional investigations as required, should be performed to exclude potential causes of secondary hyperhidrosis (e.g. hyperthyroidism or pheochromocytoma). This will avoid symptomatic treatment of hyperhidrosis without the diagnosis and/or treatment of underlying disease.

## ADVERSE REACTIONS

### Adverse Events Reaction Overview

In general, adverse reactions occur within the first few days following injection and while generally transient may have duration of several months or, in rare cases, longer.

Local muscle weakness represents the expected pharmacological action of botulinum toxin in muscle tissue. However, weakness of adjacent muscles associated with local diffusion and/or injection technique has been reported. Muscle weakness remote to the site of injection and other serious adverse effects (e.g. dysphagia, aspiration pneumonia) have been rarely reported in both pediatric and adult patients, some associated with a fatal outcome.

As is expected for any injection procedure, localized pain, inflammation, paresthesia, hypoesthesia, tenderness, swelling/edema, erythema, localized infection, bleeding and/or bruising have been associated with the injection. Needle-related pain and/or anxiety have resulted in vasovagal responses, including transient symptomatic hypotension and syncope.

### Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and for approximating rates.

### Post-market Adverse Drug Reactions:

BOTOX® and BOTOX COSMETIC® contain the same active ingredient in the same formulation. Therefore, adverse events observed with the use of BOTOX COSMETIC® also have the potential to be associated with the use of BOTOX®.

Adverse events after treatment with botulinum toxin include rare spontaneous reports of death, sometimes associated with anaphylaxis, dysphagia, respiratory compromise, pneumonia, and/or other significant debility. There have also been rare reports of adverse events involving the cardiovascular system, including arrhythmia and myocardial infarction, some with fatal outcomes. Some of these patients had risk factors including pre-existing cardiovascular disease. New onset or recurrent seizures have also been reported, typically in patients who are predisposed to experiencing these events. The exact relationship of these events to the botulinum toxin injection has not been established.

The following other adverse events have been reported since the drug has been marketed: abdominal pain; diarrhea; vomiting; pyrexia; anorexia; vision blurred; visual disturbance; hyposacusis; tinnitus; vertigo; facial palsy; facial paresis; brachial plexopathy; radiculopathy; syncope; hypoesthesia; malaise; myalgia; myasthenia gravis; paraesthesia; allergic reaction, skin rash (including erythema multiforme, urticaria and psoriasisiform eruption); pruritus; hyperhidrosis; alopecia, including madarosis.

Angle closure glaucoma has been reported very rarely following BOTOX® treatment for blepharospasm.

These reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size. The exact relationship of these events to botulinum toxin is unknown.

## DRUG INTERACTIONS

### Overview

No specific interactions have been reported.

### Drug-Drug Interactions

Proper name of drug	Ref	Effect	Clinical comment
Aminoglycoside antibiotics or spectinomycin, or other medicinal products that interfere with neuromuscular transmission (e.g. neuromuscular blocking agents, both depolarizing (succinylcholine) and non-depolarizing (tubocurarine derivatives), lincosamides, polymyxins, quinidine, magnesium sulfate, and anticholinesterases).	T	Theoretically, the effect of botulinum toxin type A may be potentiated	The effect of botulinum toxin may be potentiated by aminoglycoside antibiotics or spectinomycin, or other drugs that interfere with neuromuscular transmission (e.g. tubocurarine-type muscle relaxants). Caution should be exercised when BOTOX® is used with aminoglycosides (e.g. streptomycin, tobramycin, neomycin, gentamicin, netilmicin, kanamycin, amikacin), spectinomycin, polymyxins, tetracyclines, lincomycin or any other drugs that interfere with neuromuscular transmission.
Different botulinum neurotoxin serotypes	T	Unknown	The effect of administering different botulinum neurotoxin serotypes at the same time or within several months of each other is unknown. Excessive weakness may be exacerbated by administration of another botulinum toxin prior to the resolution of the effects of a previously administered botulinum toxin.

Legend: T = Theoretical

## Drug-Food Interactions

Interactions with food have not been established.

## Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

## Drug-Laboratory Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

To report an adverse effect to Allergan Inc., please call 1-800-433-8871.



## Administration

### Dosing Considerations

- **Intramuscular Use for All Indications except Hyperhidrosis**
- **Intradermal Use for Hyperhidrosis only**
- BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA for injection) should only be given by physicians with the appropriate qualifications and experience in the treatment and the use of required equipment.
- The term "Allergan unit" upon which dosing is based is a specific measurement of toxin activity that is unique to Allergan's formulation of botulinum toxin type A. Therefore, the "Allergan units" used to describe BOTOX® activity are different from those used to describe that of other botulinum toxin preparations and the units representing BOTOX® activity are not interchangeable with other products.
- The use of one vial for more than one patient is not recommended because the product and diluent do not contain a preservative.
- Follow the recommended dosage and frequency of administration for each indication.
- Generally, optimum dose levels and the number of injection sites per muscle have not been established for all indications. Treatment should be initiated at the lowest effective dose. This dose can be gradually increased in subsequent treatments to the maximum recommended dose, if needed.
- Injection intervals of BOTOX® should be according to the specific indication. In treating adult patients, when combining indications, the maximum cumulative dose should generally not exceed 6 Units/kg, up to a maximum of 360 Units, in a 3 month interval. In treating pediatric patients, the maximum cumulative dose should generally not exceed 6 Units/kg, up to a maximum of 200 Units, in a 3 month interval.

### Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

#### Chronic Migraine:

The recommended dilution is 200 U/4 mL or 100 U/2 mL, with a final concentration of 5 U per 0.1 mL (see Dilution Table 5). The recommended dose for treating chronic migraine is 155 U administered intramuscularly (IM) as 0.1 mL (5 U) injections to 31 sites using a 30-gauge, 0.5 inch needle. Injections should be divided across 7 specific head/neck muscle areas as specified in Table 2 below. A 1-inch needle may be needed in the neck region for patients with extremely thick neck muscles. With the exception of the procerus muscle, which should be injected at 1 site (midline), all muscles should be injected bilaterally with the minimum dose per muscle as indicated below, with half the number of injections sites administered to the left, and half to the right side of the head and neck. If there is a predominant pain location(s), optional additional injections to one or both sides may be administered in up to 3 specific muscle groups (occipitalis, temporalis, and trapezius), up to the maximum dose per muscle (Table 2). This represents a total maximum dose for chronic migraine of 195 U (39 sites).

The recommended retreatment schedule is every 12 weeks.

Recommended Dose	
Head/Neck Area	Total Number of Units (U) (number of IM injection sites <sup>a</sup> )
Frontalis <sup>b</sup>	20 U (4 sites)
Corrugator <sup>b</sup>	10 U (2 sites)
Procerus	5 U (1 site)
Occipitalis <sup>b</sup>	30 U (6 sites) up to 40 U (up to 8 sites)
Temporalis <sup>b</sup>	40 U (8 sites) up to 50 U (up to 10 sites)
Trapezius <sup>b</sup>	30 U (6 sites) up to 50 U (up to 10 sites)
Cervical paraspinal group <sup>b</sup>	20 U (4 sites)
<b>Total Dose:</b>	<b>155 U to 195 (31 to 39 sites)</b>

<sup>a</sup> 1 IM injection site = 0.1 mL = 5 U BOTOX®.

<sup>b</sup> Dose distributed bilaterally for minimum dose.

#### Lack of Response:

There are several potential explanations for a lack of or diminished response to an individual treatment with BOTOX®. These may include inadequate dose selection, selection of inappropriate muscles for injection, muscles inaccessible to injection, underlying structural abnormalities such as muscle contractures or bone disorders, change in pattern of muscle involvement, patient perception of benefit compared with initial results, inappropriate storage or reconstitution, as well as neutralizing antibodies to botulinum toxin. A neutralizing antibody is defined as an antibody that inactivates the biological activity of the toxin. However, there have been patients who continued to respond to therapy and demonstrated presence of neutralizing antibodies; the proportion of patients which lose their response to botulinum toxin therapy and have demonstrable levels of neutralizing antibodies is small.

To reduce the potential for neutralizing antibody formation, it is recommended that injection intervals should be no more frequent than two months. In general, the dose should not exceed 360 U in any two month period. No patients among 496 chronic migraine patients with analyzed specimens showed the presence of neutralizing antibodies.

A suggested course of action when patients do not respond to BOTOX® injections is:

- 1) wait the usual treatment interval;
- 2) consider reasons for lack of response listed above;
- 3) more than one treatment course should be considered before classification of a patient as a non-responder;
- 4) test patient serum for neutralizing antibody presence.

**Missed Dose**

Missed doses may be administered as soon as is practical.

**Administration**

An injection of BOTOX® is prepared by drawing into a sterile 1.0 mL tuberculin syringe an amount of the properly diluted toxin slightly greater than the intended dose. Air bubbles in the syringe barrel are expelled and the syringe may be attached to the electromyographic injection needle, preferably a 1.5 inch, 27 gauge needle. Injection volume in excess of the intended dose is expelled through the needle into an appropriate waste container to assure patency of the needle and to confirm that there is no syringe-needle leakage. A new sterile needle and syringe should be used to enter the vial on each occasion for dilution or removal of BOTOX®.

**Reconstitution:**

**Parenteral Products:**

To reconstitute vacuum-dried BOTOX®, use sterile normal saline without a preservative; 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection is the only recommended diluent. Draw up the proper amount of diluent in the appropriate size syringe. Since BOTOX® is denatured by bubbling or similar violent agitation, inject the diluent into the vial gently. Discard the vial if a vacuum does not pull the diluent into the vial. Record the date and time of reconstitution on the space on the label. BOTOX® should be administered within twenty-four hours after reconstitution.

During this time period, reconstituted BOTOX® should be stored in a refrigerator (2° to 8°C). Reconstituted BOTOX® should be clear, colorless and free of particulate matter. Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration and whenever the solution and the container permit.

Quantity of Diluent Added (0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection)	Resulting dose Units per 0.1 mL		
	50 U Vial	100 U Vial	200 U Vial
1.0 mL	5.0 U	10.0 U	20.0 U
2.0 mL	2.5 U	5.0 U	10.0 U
4.0 mL	1.25 U	2.5 U	5.0 U
8.0 mL	—	1.25 U	2.5 U

Note: These dilutions are calculated for an injection volume of 0.1 mL. A decrease or increase in the BOTOX® dose is also possible by administering a smaller or larger injection volume (i.e., 0.05 mL [50% decrease in dose] to 0.15 mL [50% increase in dose]).

**Study References**

1. BOTOX® Product Monograph. Allergan Inc., October 18, 2011.

**Supplemental Product Information**

**Adverse Reactions:**

For each indication the frequency of adverse reactions documented during clinical trials is given. The following lists events that occurred in ≥1% of subjects. The frequency is defined as follows: Very Common (≥1/10); Common (≥1/100, <1/10).

**Chronic Migraine**

Safety data compiled from two chronic migraine double-blind, placebo controlled phase 3 clinical trials involving 687 patients treated with BOTOX®. The following adverse reactions were reported.

Adverse Events Reported by ≥ 2% of BOTOX®-Treated Patients and More Frequent than in Placebo-treated Patients in Two Phase 3 Chronic Migraine Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Clinical Trials

System Organ Class/ Preferred Term	BOTOX® (N=687)	Placebo (N=692)
Overall	429 (62.4%)	358 (51.7%)
<b>Eye Disorders</b>		
Eyelid ptosis	25 (3.6%)	2 (0.3%)
<b>General Disorders &amp; Administration Site Conditions</b>		
Injection site pain	23 (3.3%)	14 (2.0%)
<b>Infections &amp; Infestations</b>		
Sinusitis	28 (4.1%)	27 (3.9%)
Bronchitis	17 (2.5%)	11 (1.6%)
<b>Musculoskeletal &amp; Connective Tissue Disorders</b>		
Neck pain	60 (8.7%)	19 (2.7%)
Musculoskeletal stiffness	25 (3.6%)	6 (0.9%)
Muscular weakness	24 (3.5%)	2 (0.3%)
Myalgia	21 (3.1%)	6 (0.9%)
Musculoskeletal pain	18 (2.6%)	10 (1.4%)

Nervous System Disorders		
Headache	32 (4.7%)	22 (3.2%)
Migraine	26 (3.8%)	18 (2.6%)
Facial paresis	15 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)

The discontinuation rate due to adverse events in these phase 3 trials was 3.8% for BOTOX® vs. 1.2% for placebo. The most frequently reported adverse events leading to discontinuation in the BOTOX® group were neck pain (0.6%), muscular weakness (0.4%), headache (0.4%), and migraine (0.4%).

**MANAGEMENT OF OVERDOSE**

For the management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your Regional Poison Control Centre

In the event of overdosage or injection error, additional information may be obtained by contacting Allergan Inc. at 1-800-433-8871.

Overdose of BOTOX® is a relative term and depends upon dose, site of injection, and underlying tissue properties. Signs and symptoms of overdose are not apparent immediately post-injection. Should accidental injection or oral ingestion occur, or overdose be suspected, the person should be medically monitored for up to several weeks for progressive signs or symptoms of muscular weakness distant from the site of injection that may include ptosis, diplopia, swallowing and speech disorders, generalized weakness or respiratory failure. These patients should be considered for further medical evaluation and appropriate medical therapy immediately instituted, which may include hospitalization.

**ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

**Pharmacodynamics**

When used for prophylaxis of headaches in adults with chronic migraine BOTOX® may act as an inhibitor of neurotransmitters associated with the genesis of pain. The presumed mechanism for headache prophylaxis is by blocking peripheral signals to the central nervous system, which inhibits central sensitization, as suggested by pre-clinical studies.

**STORAGE AND STABILITY**

- Store the vacuum-dried product either in a refrigerator at 2° to 8°C, or in a freezer at or below -5°C.
- Administer BOTOX® within 24 hours after the vial is removed from the freezer and reconstituted.
- During these 24 hours, reconstituted BOTOX® should be stored in a refrigerator (2° to 8°C).
- Reconstituted BOTOX® should be clear, colorless and free of particulate matter.
- Do not freeze reconstituted BOTOX®.
- At the time of use, product acceptability should be confirmed relative to the expiration date indicated on the product vial and outer box.

**SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS**

All vials, including expired vials, or equipment used with the drug should be disposed of carefully as is done with all medical waste.

**DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING**

BOTOX® is available in 50, 100 and 200 unit (U) sterile vials of *Clostridium botulinum* toxin type A in a vacuum-dried form without a preservative. One Allergan unit (U) corresponds to the calculated median lethal dose (LD<sub>50</sub>) in mice using reconstituted BOTOX® and injected intraperitoneally.

The quantities of the ingredients in each vial are listed below:

INGREDIENTS	50 Allergan U Vial	100 Allergan U Vial	200 Allergan U Vial
<i>Clostridium botulinum</i> toxin type A neurotoxin complex (900kD)	50 U	100 U	200 U
Human Serum Albumin	0.25 mg	0.5 mg	1.0 mg
Sodium Chloride	0.45 mg	0.9 mg	1.8 mg

**Complete product monograph available on request:**

Allergan Inc.  
85 Enterprise Blvd., Suite 500  
Markham, Ontario L6G 0B5  
1-800-668-6424  
or visit [www.allergan.ca](http://www.allergan.ca)

© 2011 Allergan Inc., 85 Enterprise Blvd., Suite 500, Markham ON L6G 0B5  
® Registered Trademark of Allergan Inc.





## Prescribing Summary

### Patient Selection Criteria

**THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:** Antiepileptic Agent

#### INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

**Adults (≥18 years of age):** VIMPAT (lacosamide) is indicated as adjunctive therapy in the management of partial-onset seizures in adult patients with epilepsy who are not satisfactorily controlled with conventional therapy. VIMPAT (lacosamide) solution for injection for intravenous use is an alternative when oral administration is temporarily not feasible.

**Geriatrics (≥65 years of age):** The clinical experience with VIMPAT in elderly patients with epilepsy is limited (n=18). Caution should be exercised during dose titration and age-associated decreased renal clearance should be considered in elderly patients (See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Special Populations, Geriatrics, DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** and **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Geriatrics**).

**Pediatrics (<18 years of age):** The safety and efficacy of VIMPAT in pediatric patients (<18 years of age) have not been established and its use in this patient population is not indicated (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Special Populations, Pediatrics**). Only ten pediatric patients (16 to 17 years of age) participated in controlled trials of partial-onset seizures.

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Patients who are hypersensitive to the active substance or to any of the excipients. For a complete listing, see the **DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING** section of the product monograph.
- Patients with a history of, or presence of, second- or third-degree atrioventricular (AV) block.

### Safety Information

#### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

##### General Withdrawal of Antiepileptic Drugs (AEDs)

As with all AEDs, VIMPAT (lacosamide) should be withdrawn gradually (over a minimum of 1 week) to minimize the potential of increased seizure frequency. (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, Cardiac Rhythm and Conduction Abnormalities, PR Interval Prolongation** Second degree or higher AV block has been reported in post-marketing experience. Patients should be made aware of the symptoms of second-degree or higher AV block (e.g. slow or irregular pulse, feeling of lightheadedness and fainting), and told to contact their physician should any of these symptoms occur. VIMPAT should be used with caution in patients with known conduction problems (e.g. marked first-degree atrioventricular (AV) block, sick sinus syndrome without pacemaker), or with a history of severe cardiac disease such as myocardial ischemia or heart failure. In such patients, obtaining an ECG before beginning VIMPAT, and after VIMPAT is titrated to steady-state, is recommended. Caution should especially be exerted when treating elderly patients as they may be at increased risk of cardiac disorder or when VIMPAT is given with other drugs that prolong the PR interval (e.g. carbamazepine, pregabalin, lamotrigine or beta-blockers), as further PR prolongation is possible (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**). In clinical trials of healthy subjects and patients with epilepsy, VIMPAT treatment was associated with PR interval prolongation in a dose-dependent manner (see **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacodynamics**). Patients with significant electrocardiographic (ECG) abnormalities were systematically excluded from these trials. The mean PR interval increase (at  $t_{max}$ ) in a clinical pharmacology ECG trial of healthy subjects was

13.6ms for the 400 mg/day VIMPAT group, 18.2ms for the 800 mg/day VIMPAT group, and 6.3ms for the placebo group. The mean increase in PR interval at the end of 12 weeks maintenance treatment for patients with partial-onset seizures who participated in the controlled trials was 1.4ms, 4.4ms, and 6.6ms for the VIMPAT 200, 400, and 600 mg/day groups, respectively, and -0.3ms for the placebo group. The mean maximum increase in PR interval in these controlled trials was 12.7ms, 14.3ms, and 15.7ms in the VIMPAT 200, 400, and 600 mg/day groups and 11.2ms in the placebo group. Among patients who participated in these controlled trials, asymptomatic first-degree atrioventricular (AV) block was detected on ECG and reported as an adverse reaction for 0.4% (4/944 patients) in the VIMPAT group and 0% (0/364 patients) in the placebo group (See **ADVERSE REACTIONS**). **Atrial Fibrillation and Atrial Flutter** VIMPAT administration may predispose to atrial arrhythmias (atrial fibrillation or flutter), especially in patients with diabetic neuropathy and/or cardiovascular disease. Patients should be made aware of the symptoms of atrial fibrillation and flutter (e.g. palpitations, rapid or irregular pulse, shortness of breath) and told to contact their physician should any of these symptoms occur. Atrial fibrillation and flutter have been reported in open-label epilepsy trials and in post-marketing experience. No cases occurred in the short-term investigational trials of VIMPAT in epilepsy patients. In patients with diabetic neuropathy, 0.6% of patients treated with VIMPAT experienced an adverse reaction of atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter, compared to 0% of placebo treated patients.

**Syncope** In the short-term controlled trials of VIMPAT in epilepsy patients with no significant system illnesses, there was no increase in syncope compared to placebo. In the short-term controlled trials of VIMPAT in patients with diabetic neuropathy, 1.0% of patients who were treated with VIMPAT reported an adverse reaction of syncope or loss of consciousness, compared to 0% of placebo-treated patients with diabetic neuropathy. Most of the cases of syncope were observed in patients receiving doses above 400 mg/day. The cause of syncope was not determined in most cases. However, several were associated with either changes in orthostatic blood pressure, atrial flutter/fibrillation (and associated tachycardia), or bradycardia (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Intravenous Adverse Reactions**). **Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis** See **Product Monograph Part II: TOXICOLOGY, Carcinogenicity and Mutagenicity** for discussion on animal data. **Hypersensitivity**

Multorgan hypersensitivity reactions (also known as Drug Rash with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms, or DRESS), Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) have been reported with anticonvulsants. Typically, although not exclusively, DRESS presents with fever and rash associated with other organ system involvement, that may or may not include eosinophilia, hepatitis, nephritis, lymphadenopathy, and/or myocarditis. Because these disorders are variable in their expression, other organ system signs and symptoms not noted here may also occur. If any of these hypersensitivity reactions are suspected, VIMPAT should be discontinued and alternative treatment started. One case of symptomatic hepatitis and nephritis was observed among 4011 subjects exposed to VIMPAT during clinical development. The event occurred in a healthy volunteer, 10 days after stopping VIMPAT treatment. The subject was not taking any concomitant medication and potential known viral etiologies for hepatitis were ruled out. The subject fully recovered within a month, without specific treatment. The case is consistent with a delayed multorgan hypersensitivity reaction. Additional potential cases included 2 with rash and elevated liver enzymes and 1 with myocarditis and hepatitis of uncertain etiology. One case of SJS was reported in post-marketing experience during treatment with VIMPAT in combination with other antiepileptic drugs, but this case was not considered to be related to VIMPAT by the reporter. SJS was not reported during clinical development, and none have been reported in post-marketing experience. **Neurologic Dizziness and Ataxia** Treatment with VIMPAT has been associated with dizziness and ataxia which could increase the occurrence of accidental injury or falls. In controlled clinical trials, dizziness was experienced by 25% of patients with partial-onset seizures taking 1 to 3 concomitant AEDs randomized to the recommended doses (200 to 400 mg/day) of VIMPAT (compared with 8% of placebo patients) and was the

adverse event most frequently leading to discontinuation (3%). Ataxia was experienced by 6% of patients randomized to the recommended doses (200 to 400 mg/day) of VIMPAT (compared to 2% of placebo patients) (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS, Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions**). There was a substantial increase in the frequency of occurrence of these events when patients received VIMPAT doses greater than 400 mg/day. Accordingly, patients should be advised not to drive a car or to operate other complex machinery or perform hazardous tasks until they are familiar with the effects of VIMPAT on their ability to perform such activities (see **Part III: CONSUMER INFORMATION**). **Ophthalmological Effects** In controlled trials in patients with partial-onset seizures, VIMPAT treatment was associated with vision-related adverse events such as blurred vision (VIMPAT, 8%; placebo, 3%) and diplopia (VIMPAT, 11%; placebo, 2%). Three percent of patients randomized to VIMPAT discontinued treatment due to vision-related adverse events (primarily diplopia) (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**). Patients should be informed that if visual disturbances occur, they should notify their physician promptly. If visual disturbance persists, further assessment, including dose reduction and possible discontinuation of VIMPAT, should be considered. More frequent assessments should be considered for patients with known vision-related issues or those who are already routinely monitored for ocular conditions. **Psychiatric Suicidal Ideation and Behaviour** Suicidal ideation and behaviour have been reported in patients treated with antiepileptic agents in several indications. All patients treated with antiepileptic drugs, irrespective of indication, should be monitored for signs of suicidal ideation and behaviour and appropriate treatment should be considered. Patients (and caregivers of patients) should be advised to seek medical advice should signs of suicidal ideation or behaviour emerge. An FDA meta-analysis of randomized placebo controlled trials, in which antiepileptic drugs were used for various indications, has shown a small increased risk of suicidal ideation and behaviour in patients treated with these drugs. The mechanism of this risk is not known. There were 43892 patients treated in the placebo controlled clinical trials that were included in the meta-analysis. Approximately 75% of patients in these clinical trials were treated for indications other than epilepsy and, for the majority of non-epilepsy indications the treatment (antiepileptic drug or placebo) was administered as monotherapy. Patients with epilepsy represented approximately 25% of the total number of patients treated in the placebo controlled clinical trials and, for the majority of epilepsy patients, treatment (antiepileptic drug or placebo) was administered as adjunct to other antiepileptic agents (i.e., patients in both treatment arms were being treated with one or more antiepileptic drug). Therefore, the small increased risk of suicidal ideation and behaviour reported from the meta-analysis (0.43% for patients on antiepileptic drugs compared to 0.24% for patients on placebo) is based largely on patients that received monotherapy treatment (antiepileptic drug or placebo) for non-epilepsy indications. The study design does not allow an estimation of the risk of suicidal ideation and behaviour for patients with epilepsy that are taking antiepileptic drugs, due both to this population being the minority in the study, and the drug-placebo comparison in this population being confounded by the presence of adjunct antiepileptic drug treatment in both arms. **Special Populations Women of Childbearing Potential / Contraception:** There was no clinically relevant interaction between lacosamide and oral contraceptives (ethinylestradiol and levonorgestrel) in clinical studies (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS, Drug-Drug Interactions, Oral Contraceptives**). **Pregnant Women:** There are no studies with lacosamide in pregnant women. Studies in animals did not indicate any teratogenic effects in rats or rabbits, but embryotoxicity was observed in rats and rabbits at maternal toxic doses (see **TOXICOLOGY, Reproduction Studies**). Since the potential risk for humans is unknown, VIMPAT should not be used during pregnancy unless the benefit to the mother clearly outweighs the potential risk to the foetus. If women decide to become pregnant while taking VIMPAT, the use of this product should be carefully re-evaluated. **Pregnancy Registry:** Physicians are advised to recommend that pregnant patients taking VIMPAT enroll in the North American Antiepileptic Drug Pregnancy Registry. This can be done by calling the toll free number 1-888-233-2334, and must be done by patients themselves. Information on the registry can also be found at the



following website: <http://www.aedpregnancyregistry.org/>.

**Nursing Women:** It is unknown whether lacosamide is excreted in human breast milk. Animal studies have shown excretion of lacosamide in breast milk. Because many drugs are excreted into human milk, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue lacosamide, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. **Fertility:** No adverse effects on male or female fertility or reproduction were observed in rats at doses producing plasma exposures (AUC) up to approximately 2 times the plasma AUC in humans at the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 400 mg/day.

**Geriatrics (≥65 years of age):** The experience with VIMPAT in elderly patients with epilepsy is limited (n=18). Although no dose reduction is necessary in elderly patients, caution should be exercised during dose titration and age-associated decreased renal clearance with an increase in AUC levels should be considered in elderly patients (See **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** and **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Geriatrics**). **Pediatrics (<18 years of age):** VIMPAT is not indicated for use in pediatrics (<18 years of age) as there is insufficient data on safety and efficacy of the drug in this population (see **INDICATIONS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**). **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests** See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Cardiac Rhythm and Conduction Abnormalities. Adverse Drug Reaction Overview**

In controlled clinical trials in patients with partial-onset seizures, 924 patients received VIMPAT (lacosamide). Some of the most frequently reported adverse reactions in controlled clinical trials with lacosamide treatment were dizziness, nausea, and vision-related events (e.g. diplopia, blurred vision). They were dose-related and usually mild to moderate in intensity. **Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions** Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions, the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and for approximating rates. Table 1 gives the incidence of treatment-emergent adverse events that occurred in ≥1% of adult patients with partial-onset seizures in the total VIMPAT group (n=944) and for which the frequency was greater than placebo, in controlled clinical trials. The majority of adverse events were reported with a maximum intensity of 'mild' or 'moderate'.

**Table 1: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Event Incidence in Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Partial-Onset Seizure Trials (Events ≥1% of Patients in the total VIMPAT group and More Frequent Than in the Placebo Group).**

MedDRA System Organ Class/ Preferred Term	Placebo N=364 %	200 mg/day N=270 %	400 mg/day N=471 %	600 mg/day N=203 %
<b>Ear and labyrinth disorders</b>				
Vertigo	1	5	3	4
Tinnitus	1	0	2	2
<b>Eye disorders</b>				
Diplopia	2	6	10	16
Vision blurred	3	2	9	16
Conjunctivitis	<1	2	<1	0
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>				
Nausea	4	7	11	17
Vomiting	3	6	9	16
Diarrhoea	3	3	5	4
Constipation	1	1	2	4
Flatulence	0	3	2	1
Dyspepsia	1	1	2	2
Toothache	1	2	2	1
Dry Mouth	1	1	1	2
Hypoaesthesia oral	0	0	1	1
<b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>				
Fatigue	6	7	7	15
Gait disturbance	<1	<1	2	4
Asthenia	1	2	2	4
Irritability	1	1	2	2
Chest pain	1	2	1	2
Pyrexia	1	2	1	1
Feeling drunk	0	0	1	3
Oedema peripheral	0	1	<1	2
Feeling abnormal	<1	0	1	2

**Table 1 Cont.: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Event Incidence in Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Partial-Onset Seizure Trials (Events ≥1% of Patients in the total VIMPAT group and More Frequent Than in the Placebo Group).**

MedDRA System Organ Class/ Preferred Term	Placebo N=364 %	200 mg/day N=270 %	400 mg/day N=471 %	600 mg/day N=203 %
<b>Infections and infestations</b>				
Nasopharyngitis	6	6	8	4
Bronchitis	0	2	1	1
Rhinitis	<1	<1	1	1
Ear infection	<1	1	1	0
Cystitis	<1	1	<1	1
Gastroenteritis	0	1	<1	0
<b>Injury, poisoning and procedural complications</b>				
Contusion	3	3	4	2
Skin laceration	2	2	3	3
Fall	<1	1	2	1
Head injury	<1	2	1	1
Joint sprain	0	1	1	2
<b>Investigations</b>				
Positive rombergism	0	1	1	2
Gamma-glutamyltransferase increased	<1	2	<1	1
White blood cell count decreased	<1	0	<1	2
<b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>				
Decreased appetite	<1	<1	2	3
Hypercholesterolaemia	<1	1	1	1
<b>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</b>				
Muscle spasms	<1	1	1	2
Neck pain	<1	1	1	1
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>				
Dizziness	8	16	30	53
Headache	9	11	14	12
Ataxia	2	4	7	15
Somnolence	5	5	8	8
Tremor	4	4	6	12
Nystagmus	4	2	5	10
Balance disorder	0	1	5	6
Memory impairment	2	1	2	6
Cognitive disorder	<1	<1	2	2
Hypoaesthesia	1	2	2	2
Dysarthria	<1	<1	1	3
Disturbance in attention	1	0	1	2
<b>Psychiatric disorders</b>				
Depression	1	2	2	2
Insomnia	1	2	2	1
Confusional state	1	0	2	3
Mood altered	<1	1	1	2
<b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>				
Dyspnoea	<1	0	1	1
Epistaxis	0	1	1	0
<b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>				
Pruritus	1	3	2	3
Hyperhidrosis	<1	0	1	2

**Table 2: Incidence of Most Common Dose-Related Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events in Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Partial-Onset Seizure Trials (Events ≥1% of Patients in the total VIMPAT group and More Frequent Than in the Placebo Group).**

MedDRA Preferred Term	Placebo N=364 %	200 mg/day N=270 %	400 mg/day N=471 %	600 mg/day N=203 %
Diplopia	2	6	10	16
Vision blurred	3	2	9	16
Nausea	4	7	11	17
Vomiting	3	6	9	16
Dizziness	8	16	30	53
Ataxia	2	4	7	15
Tremor	4	4	6	12
Nystagmus	4	2	5	10

**Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse**

**Drug Reactions (<1%):** Other adverse events reported by <1% of patients with partial-onset seizures in the total VIMPAT group in placebo-controlled clinical trials that occurred more frequently than in the placebo group were:

**Eye disorders:** eye irritation

**Nervous system disorders:** hypokinesia

**Vascular disorders:** hot flush

**Cardiac** Dose-dependent prolongations in PR interval with VIMPAT have been observed in clinical studies in patients and in healthy subjects (see **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**). In clinical trials in patients with partial-

onset seizures, asymptomatic first-degree AV block was observed as an adverse reaction in 0.4% (4/944) of patients randomized to receive VIMPAT and 0% (0/364) of patients randomized to receive placebo. In clinical trials in patients with diabetic neuropathy, asymptomatic first-degree AV block was observed as an adverse reaction in 0.6% (8/1393) of patients receiving VIMPAT and 0% (0/470) of patients receiving placebo. No second or higher degree AV block was seen in lacosamide treated epilepsy patients in controlled clinical trials. In clinical trials in patients with diabetic neuropathic pain, second-degree AV block has been rarely reported (<0.1%) (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**). However, cases with second and third degree AV block associated with lacosamide treatment have been reported in post-marketing experience (see **Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions**). **Other Adverse Reactions in Patients with Partial-Onset Seizures** The following is a list of treatment-emergent adverse events reported by patients treated with VIMPAT in all clinical trials in patients with partial-onset seizures, including controlled trials and long-term open-label extension trials. Events addressed in other tables or sections are not listed here. Events included in this list from the controlled trials occurred more frequently on drug than on placebo and were based on consideration of VIMPAT pharmacology, frequency above that expected in the population, seriousness, and likelihood of a relationship to VIMPAT. Events are further classified within system organ class.

**Blood and lymphatic system disorders:** neutropenia, anemia

**Cardiac disorders:** palpitations

**Nervous system disorders:** paresthesia, cerebellar syndrome

**Intravenous Adverse Reactions** Adverse reactions with intravenous administration generally appeared similar to those observed with the oral formulation, although intravenous administration was associated with local adverse events such as injection site pain or discomfort (2.5%), irritation (1%), and erythema (0.5%). One case of profound bradycardia (26 bpm; BP 100/60 mmHg) was observed in a patient during a 15 minute infusion of 150 mg VIMPAT. This patient was on a beta-blocker. Infusion was discontinued and the patient recovered. **Discontinuation Due to Adverse Events in Pre-marketing Controlled Clinical Studies** In controlled clinical trials in patients with partial-onset seizures, the rate of discontinuation as a result of an adverse event was 8% and 17% in patients randomized to receive VIMPAT at doses of 200 and 400 mg/day, respectively (placebo: 5%). At VIMPAT doses of 600 mg/day, 29% of the patients discontinued the trials due to adverse events. The adverse events most commonly (≥1% in the VIMPAT total group and greater than placebo) leading to discontinuation were dizziness, coordination abnormal, vomiting, diplopia, nausea, vertigo, and vision blurred. Other adverse events that led to discontinuation (<1% in the VIMPAT total group and greater than placebo) were typically CNS related and included tremor, nystagmus, fatigue, balance disorder, and disturbance in attention. **Comparison of Gender and Race:** The overall adverse event rate was similar in male and female patients. Although there were few non-Caucasian patients, no differences in the incidences of adverse events compared to Caucasian patients were observed. **Abnormal Hematologic and Clinical Chemistry Findings:** Abnormalities in liver function tests have been observed in controlled trials with VIMPAT in adult patients with partial-onset seizures who were taking 1 to 3 concomitant anti-epileptic drugs. Elevations of ALT to ≥3x ULN (upper limit of normal) occurred in 0.7% (7/935) of VIMPAT patients and 0% (0/356) of placebo patients. One case of hepatitis with transaminases >20x ULN was observed in one healthy subject 10 days after VIMPAT treatment completion, along with nephritis (proteinuria and urine casts). Serologic studies were negative for viral hepatitis. Transaminases returned to normal within one month without specific treatment. At the time of this event, bilirubin was normal. The hepatitis/nephritis was interpreted as a delayed hypersensitivity reaction to VIMPAT. **Drug Abuse and Dependence/Liability** Lacosamide showed no signs of abuse potential in three rat models. After prolonged administration to rats and dogs, there was no tolerance to lacosamide's pharmacological actions and abrupt cessation of treatment did not produce symptoms of psychological or physical dependence. In a human abuse potential study, single doses of 200 mg and 800 mg lacosamide produced euphoria-type subjective responses that differentiated



statistically from placebo; at 800 mg, these euphoria-type responses were statistically indistinguishable from those produced by alprazolam. The duration of the euphoria-type responses following lacosamide was less than that following alprazolam. A high rate of euphoria was also reported as an adverse event in the human abuse potential study following single doses of 800 mg lacosamide (15% [5/34]) compared to placebo (0%) and in two pharmacokinetic studies following single and multiple doses of 300-800 mg lacosamide (ranging from 6% [2/33] to 25% [3/12]) compared to placebo (0%). However, the rate of euphoria reported as an adverse event in the VIMPAT development program at therapeutic doses was less than 1%. Abrupt termination of lacosamide in clinical trials with diabetic neuropathic pain patients produced no signs or symptoms that are associated with a withdrawal syndrome indicative of physical dependence. However, psychological dependence cannot be excluded due to the ability of lacosamide to produce euphoria-type adverse events in humans.

**Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions** Since the first global approval of VIMPAT on 29 August 2008 through 31 August 2010, there are approximately 49,720 patient-years of exposure to VIMPAT. In addition to the adverse events reported during clinical studies and listed above, the following adverse events have been reported in post-marketing experience. Table 3 is based on post-market spontaneous adverse event reports. The percentages shown are calculated by dividing the number of adverse events reported to the company by the estimated number of patient years exposed to VIMPAT. Because these adverse events are reported spontaneously from a population of uncertain size, it is not possible to reliably estimate their frequency. Furthermore, a causal relationship between VIMPAT and the emergence of these events has not been clearly established.

Table 3: Post-Market Spontaneous Adverse Event Reports			
Adverse events	Reported Frequency		
	Uncommon <1% and ≥0.1%	Rare <0.1% and ≥0.01%	Very Rare <0.01%
<b>Immune system disorders</b>			
Drug hypersensitivity reactions			X
Multiorgan hypersensitivity reactions		X	
<b>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</b>			
Leukopenia		X	
Thrombocytopenia		X	
<b>Cardiovascular disorders</b>			
Bradycardia		X	
Atrioventricular block		X	
Atrial fibrillation			X
Atrial flutter		X	
Cardiac arrest			X
Cardiac failure			X
Myocardial infarction			X
<b>Hepatobiliary disorders</b>			
Liver function test abnormal		X	
<b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>			
Hyponatremia		X	
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>			
Ataxia		X	
Syncope		X	
Suicide attempt		X	
Suicide ideation		X	
Aggression		X	
Agitation		X	
Psychotic disorder		X	
Insomnia		X	
<b>Skin and subcutaneous skin disorders</b>			
Rash	X		
Angioedema			X
Urticaria		X	
Stevens-Johnson Syndrome			X

**DRUG INTERACTIONS** VIMPAT (lacosamide) should be used with caution in patients treated with medicinal products known to be associated with PR prolongation (e.g. carbamazepine, lamotrigine, pregabalin, beta-blockers) and in patients treated with class I antiarrhythmic drugs (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Cardiac Rhythm and Conduction Abnormalities**). **In Vitro Assessment of Drug Interactions** *In vitro* metabolism studies indicate that lacosamide does not induce the enzyme activity of drug metabolizing cytochrome P450

isoforms CYP1A2, 2B6, 2C9, 2C19 and 3A4 at concentrations (12.5 µg/mL) close to the human peak plasma concentration (10.9 µg/mL, C<sub>max</sub>, steady state at maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 400 mg/day). At concentrations 10 times higher (125 µg/mL), enzyme activities were less than 2-fold increased. Lacosamide did not inhibit CYP 1A1, 1A2, 2A6, 2B6, 2C8, 2C9, 2D6, 2E1, 3A4/5 at concentrations up to 1000-fold greater than the C<sub>max</sub> for 400 mg/day. The inhibitory concentrations (IC<sub>50</sub>) of CYP3A4, 3A5, 2C9 and 1A1 by lacosamide are at least 70-fold higher than the C<sub>max</sub> for 400 mg/day. *In vitro* data suggest that lacosamide has the potential to inhibit CYP2C19 at therapeutic concentrations (60% inhibition at 25 µg/mL). However, an *in vivo* evaluation in healthy subjects showed no inhibitory effect of lacosamide (600 mg/day administered as 300 mg BID dosing) on the single dose pharmacokinetics of omeprazole (40 mg). Lacosamide is a CYP2C19 substrate. The relative contribution of other CYP isoforms or non-CYP enzymes in the metabolism of lacosamide is not clear. Lacosamide was not a substrate or inhibitor for P-glycoprotein. Since <15% of lacosamide is bound to plasma proteins, a clinically relevant interaction with other drugs through competition for protein binding sites is unlikely. **In Vivo Assessment of Drug Interactions** Drug-drug interaction studies in healthy subjects showed no pharmacokinetic interactions between VIMPAT and carbamazepine, valproic acid, digoxin, metformin, omeprazole, or an oral contraceptive containing ethinylestradiol and levonorgestrel. There was no evidence for any relevant drug-drug interaction of VIMPAT with common AEDs in the placebo-controlled clinical trials in patients with partial-onset seizures. The lack of pharmacokinetic interaction does not rule out the possibility of pharmacodynamic interactions, particularly among drugs that affect the heart conduction system.

**Drug - Drug Interactions Drug- Interaction Studies with AEDs:** *Effect of VIMPAT on concomitant AEDs:* VIMPAT 400 mg/day had no influence on the pharmacokinetics of 600 mg/day valproic acid and 400 mg/day carbamazepine in healthy subjects. The placebo-controlled clinical studies in patients with partial-onset seizures showed that steady-state plasma concentrations of levetiracetam, carbamazepine, carbamazepine epoxide, lamotrigine, topiramate, oxcarbazepine monohydroxy derivative (MHD), phenytoin, valproic acid, phenobarbital, gabapentin, clonazepam, and zonisamide were not affected by concomitant intake of VIMPAT at 200 to 600 mg/day. *Effect of concomitant AEDs on VIMPAT:* Drug-drug interaction studies in healthy subjects showed that 600 mg/day valproic acid had no influence on the pharmacokinetics of 400 mg/day VIMPAT. Likewise, 400 mg/day carbamazepine had no influence on the pharmacokinetics of VIMPAT (400 mg/day) in a healthy subject study. Population pharmacokinetics results in patients with partial-onset seizures showed small reductions (approximately 25% lower) in lacosamide plasma concentrations when VIMPAT (200 to 600 mg/day) was coadministered with carbamazepine, phenobarbital or phenytoin. **Drug-Drug Interaction Studies with Other Drugs:** **Digoxin** VIMPAT (400 mg/day) did not affect pharmacokinetics of digoxin (0.5 mg once daily) in a study in healthy subjects. There was no effect of digoxin on the pharmacokinetics of VIMPAT. **Metformin** There were no clinically relevant changes in metformin levels following co-administration of VIMPAT (400 mg/day). Metformin (500 mg three times a day) had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of VIMPAT (400 mg/day) in healthy subjects. **Omeprazole** Omeprazole (40 mg once daily) increased the AUC of lacosamide by 19% (300 mg, single dose), which is unlikely to be clinically significant. Lacosamide (600 mg/day) did not affect the single-dose pharmacokinetics of omeprazole (40 mg) in healthy subjects. **Oral Contraceptives** In an interaction trial in healthy subjects, there was no clinically relevant interaction between lacosamide (400 mg/day) and the oral contraceptives ethinylestradiol (0.03 mg) and levonorgestrel (0.15 mg). Progesterone concentrations were not affected when the medicinal products were co-administered (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Women of Childbearing Potential/Contraception**). **Drug-Food Interactions** VIMPAT is completely absorbed after oral administration. Food does not affect the rate or extent of absorption. **Drug-Herb Interactions** Interactions with herbal products have not been evaluated. **Drug-Laboratory Interactions** Interactions with laboratory tests have not been observed. **REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS** You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:

- Report online at [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect)
- Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345
- Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:
  - Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or
  - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program  
Health Canada  
Postal Locator 0701D  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

## Administration

### DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

**General Considerations** VIMPAT (lacosamide) may be taken with or without food. **Film-coated tablets** On the first day of treatment the patient starts with VIMPAT 50 mg tablets twice a day. During the second week, the patient takes VIMPAT 100 mg tablets twice a day. Depending on response and tolerability, VIMPAT 150 mg tablets may be taken twice a day during the third week and VIMPAT 200 mg tablets twice a day during the fourth week. **Solution for injection** The solution for injection is infused over a period of 30 to 60 minutes twice daily. VIMPAT solution for injection can be administered intravenously (i.v.) without further dilution. Conversion to or from oral and i.v. administration can be done directly without titration. The total daily dose and twice daily administration should be maintained. There is experience with twice daily infusions of VIMPAT up to 5 days (n=53). **Compatibility and Stability** VIMPAT solution for injection can be administered intravenously without further dilution or may be mixed with diluents. VIMPAT solution for injection was found to be physically compatible and chemically stable when mixed with the following diluents for at least 24 hours and stored in glass or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) bags at room temperature (15-30°C).

#### Diluents:

- Sodium Chloride Injection 0.9% (w/v)
- Dextrose Injection 5% (w/v)
- Lactated Ringer's Injection

The stability of VIMPAT solution for injection in other infusion solutions has not been evaluated. Product with particulate matter or discoloration should not be used. Any unused portion of VIMPAT solution for injection should be discarded. Do not use if solution shows haziness, particulate matter, discoloration or leakage. **Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment** **Adults** The recommended starting dose for VIMPAT is 50 mg twice a day, with or without food, which should be increased to an initial therapeutic dose of 100 mg twice a day after one week. Depending on patient response and tolerability, the maintenance dose can be further increased by 50 mg twice a day every week, to a maximum recommended daily dose of 400 mg (200 mg twice a day). Doses above 400 mg/day do not confer additional benefit, are associated with more severe and substantially higher frequency of adverse reactions and are not recommended. In accordance with current clinical practice, if VIMPAT has to be discontinued, it is recommended this be done gradually (e.g. taper the daily dose by 200 mg/week). VIMPAT therapy can be initiated with either oral or intravenous (i.v.) administration. **Patients with Renal Impairment** No dose adjustment is necessary in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance [CL<sub>CR</sub>] >30 mL/min). A maximum dose of 300 mg/day is recommended for patients with severe renal impairment (CL<sub>CR</sub> ≤30 mL/min) and in patients with end-stage renal disease. In all patients with any degree of renal impairment, the dose titration should be performed with caution (see **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Renal Impairment**). Following a 4-hour hemodialysis treatment, AUC of VIMPAT was reduced by approximately 50%. Thus, dosage supplementation of up to 50% following hemodialysis may be considered. Treatment of patients with end-stage renal disease should be made with caution as there is limited clinical experience in subjects (n=8) and no experience in patients, and there is accumulation of a metabolite (with no known pharmacological activity). **Patients with Hepatic Impairment** The dose titration should be performed with caution in patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment. A maximum dose of 300 mg/day is recommended for patients with mild or moderate hepatic impairment. The pharmacokinetics of VIMPAT have not been evaluated in severe hepatic impairment. VIMPAT is not recommended in patients



with severe hepatic impairment (see **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Impairment**).

**Geriatrics (>65 years of age)** Clinical experience with VIMPAT in elderly patients with epilepsy is limited (n=18). Although no dose reduction is necessary in elderly patients, caution should be exercised during dose titration and age-associated decreased renal clearance with an increase in AUC levels should be considered in elderly patients (see **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Geriatrics**). **Pediatrics (<18 years of age)** The safety and effectiveness of VIMPAT in pediatric patients <18 years has not been established, and therefore its use in this patient population is not indicated (see **INDICATIONS and WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Special Populations, Pediatrics**). **Missed Dose** If the patient misses a dose by a few hours, they should be instructed to take VIMPAT as soon as they remember. If it is close to their next dose, they should be instructed to take their medication at the next regular time. Patients should not take two doses at the same time.

#### OVERDOSAGE

**For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.**

**Signs, Symptoms, and Laboratory Findings of Acute Overdose in Humans** There is limited clinical experience with VIMPAT (lacosamide) overdose in humans. Clinical symptoms (dizziness and nausea) following doses of 1200 mg/day were mainly related to the central nervous system and the gastrointestinal system. There has been a single case of intentional overdose by a patient who self-administered 12 grams VIMPAT along with large doses of zonisamide, topiramate, and gabapentin. The patient presented in a coma and was hospitalized. An EEG revealed epileptic waveforms. The patient recovered 2 days later. During pre-marketing controlled clinical studies, no intentional overdose of VIMPAT resulted in death.

**Treatment or Management of Overdose** There is no specific antidote for overdose with VIMPAT. Standard decontamination procedures should be followed. General supportive care of the patient is indicated including monitoring of vital signs and observation of the clinical status of patient. A Poison Control Centre should be contacted for up to date information on the management of overdose with VIMPAT. Standard hemodialysis procedures result in significant clearance of VIMPAT (reduction of systemic exposure by 50% in 4 hours). Hemodialysis has not been performed in the few known cases of overdose, but may be helpful based on the patient's clinical state or in patients with significant renal impairment.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

##### STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store at room temperature (15 – 30°C).

##### DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

##### VIMPAT (lacosamide) tablets

VIMPAT film-coated tablets are supplied as follows:

**50 mg tablet:** VIMPAT tablets 50 mg lacosamide are pink, oval, film-coated tablets debossed with "SP" on one side and "50" on the other. They are supplied in high density polyethylene (HDPE) bottles of 60 tablets.

**100 mg tablet:** VIMPAT tablets 100 mg lacosamide are dark yellow, oval, film-coated tablets debossed with "SP" on one side and "100" on the other. They are supplied in HDPE bottles of 60 tablets.

**150 mg tablet:** VIMPAT tablets 150 mg lacosamide are salmon, oval, film-coated tablets debossed with "SP" on one side and "150" on the other. They are supplied in HDPE bottles of 60 tablets.

**200 mg tablet:** VIMPAT tablets 200 mg lacosamide are blue, oval, film-coated tablets debossed with "SP" on one side and "200" on the other. They are supplied in HDPE bottles of 60 tablets.

VIMPAT tablets contain the following nonmedicinal ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, hydroxypropylcellulose, hypromellose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, talc, titanium dioxide, and dye pigments as specified below:

VIMPAT tablets are supplied as debossed tablets and contain the following coloring agents:

50 mg tablets: red iron oxide, black iron oxide, FD&C Blue #2/indigo carmine aluminum lake

100 mg tablets: yellow iron oxide

150 mg tablets: yellow iron oxide, red iron oxide, black iron oxide

200 mg tablets: FD&C Blue #2/indigo carmine aluminum lake

##### VIMPAT solution for injection

VIMPAT solution for injection is a clear, colorless, sterile solution containing 20 mL of 10 mg lacosamide per mL for intravenous infusion. The nonmedicinal ingredients are sodium chloride and water for injection. Hydrochloric acid is used for pH adjustment. VIMPAT solution for injection has a pH of 3.8 to 5.0.

VIMPAT solution for injection 10 mg/mL is supplied in 20 mL colorless single-use glass vials, 10 mg/mL vial.

**Product Monograph available on request.**

VIMPAT® is a registered trademark used under license from Harris FRC Corporation.

VIMPAT logo™ is a trademark used under license from Harris FRC Corporation.

UCB The Epilepsy Company® is a registered trademark of the UCB Group of Companies.

© 2012, UCB Canada Inc. All rights reserved.

Date of preparation: March 2012

UCB Canada Inc.  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6H 5R7



THE EPILEPSY COMPANY™



# DID YOU KNOW ?

The Canadian Journal of  
Neurological Sciences  
(CJNS)

is the official publication of the  
Canadian Neurological Society,  
the Canadian Neurosurgical  
Society, the Canadian Association  
of Child Neurology and the  
Canadian Society of Clinical  
Neurophysiologists.

**Members** of all societies of the  
CNSF receive a **complimentary  
subscription** to the Canadian  
Journal of Neurological Sciences.

**Members** have **complimentary  
"Full Access"** to all articles back  
to 1999, by logging in through the  
Members Centre on our website.  
[www.cnsfederation.org](http://www.cnsfederation.org)

**Members** receive a **\$100.00  
discount** when they choose to  
print colour graphics to accompany  
their articles being published in the  
CJNS.

**NEW for 2012 – Members'  
articles with color graphics will  
be given preference to be  
featured on CJNS front covers !**

To view all "**Benefits of  
Membership**" and find application  
forms for each of the four societies  
of the Canadian Neurological  
Sciences Federation, visit  
[www.cnsfederation.org](http://www.cnsfederation.org)



CANADIAN  
NEUROLOGICAL  
SCIENCES  
FEDERATION  
FÉDÉRATION  
DES SCIENCES  
NEUROLOGIQUES  
DU CANADA





CANADIAN  
NEUROLOGICAL  
SCIENCES  
FEDERATION  
FÉDÉRATION  
DES SCIENCES  
NEUROLOGIQUES  
DU CANADA

**medlearn.ca**

placing learning at the hands of experts,  
authors, reviewers, and learners

### **Attention CNSF Members**

Welcome to the next stage in the evolution of the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF) e-CPD Project website...

**medlearn.ca** is an e-learning website dedicated to the learning needs of CNSF Members.

**medlearn.ca** is a learning content management system dedicated to hosting learning activities, with ownership of scientific content remaining with the authors and their institutions.

As it evolves, **medlearn.ca** will provide neurologists and neurosurgeons with access to relevant online CPD activities, resources and reports to ensure they may fulfill the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons MOC requirements for group learning, self-learning, and assessment, while also providing information to assist in enhancing the care of their patients with diseases of the nervous system.

In March 2012 the infrastructure for Medlearn was completed. We are now in the process of populating the learning activities within the site.

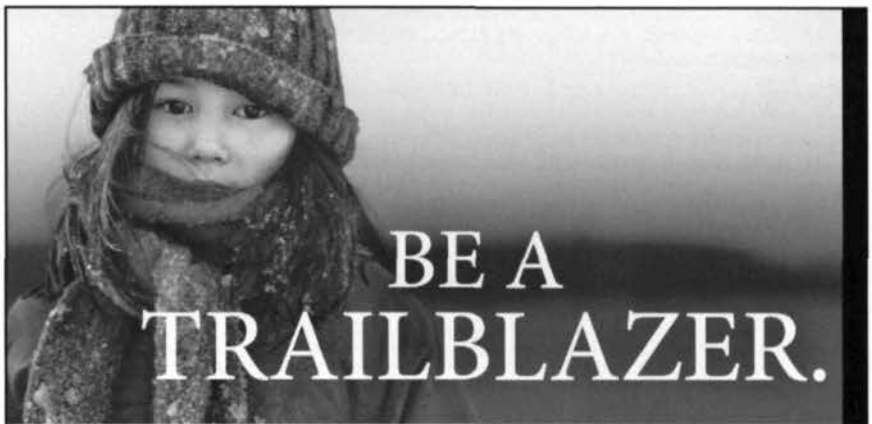
If you are interested in creating learning activities or suggesting resources for colleagues in the CNSF, please email Lisa Bicek, Manager of Professional Development and Special Projects at [lisa-bicek@cnsfederation.org](mailto:lisa-bicek@cnsfederation.org).

**THANK YOU!  
Co-Founding Sponsors**

TEVA

Canada Innovation

**ALLERGAN**



# BE A TRAILBLAZER.

The University of Manitoba is a place where you can define your future and your career. Our commitment to discovery and community encompasses everything we do, from the education we offer students to the workplace we create for staff.

The University of Manitoba offers excellent benefits, world-class facilities and an inspirational environment where you can shape your career and make a positive impact every day.

## **Epileptologist**

The Section of Neurology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Medicine Program invites applications for an Epileptologist. This will be a geographical full time contingent position located at the Health Sciences Centre commencing **August 1, 2012** or sooner.

**Position Number: 14455**

Qualifications:

- Special interest/expertise in clinical neurophysiology and epilepsy to take a leadership position in the hospital clinical neurophysiology laboratory and in the diagnosis and management of epilepsy.
- The responsibilities will include administration of the Clinical Neurophysiology EEG/EP Laboratory, interpretation of procedures, commitment in patient care, teaching (undergraduate and postgraduate) and research.
- The candidate must have senior specialty qualifications in Neurology in the country of current practice and be eligible for registration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba.
- Certification in Neurology by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is preferred.

Application closing date is **May 30, 2012** however, the position will remain open until filled.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and academic qualifications. Applications, accompanied by a curriculum vitae, a list of publications and three references, should be sent to: Chair, Neurology Search Committee, Health Sciences Centre, GC430-820 Sherbrook Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3A 1R9

For more information on this and other opportunities, please visit: [umanitoba.ca/employment](http://umanitoba.ca/employment)



Winnipeg Regional Health Authority  
Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg



**UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA**





## KING MEDICAL THE CANADIAN ELECTRODE PLACE

- ALPINE BIOMED Mono/Conc. Needles
- AMBU Blue Sensor • Neuroline
- CHALGREN Needles • Bar/Ring/Clip
- KENDALL Adhesive • NuTab
- KING MEDICAL Cables & Adapters
- MAVIDON Lemon Skin Prep
- NIKOMED USA Adhesive Electrodes
- PARKER LAB. Electrode Paste
- 3M CANADA Micropore • Transpore
- VERMED Adhesive Electrodes
- D.O. WEAVER Ten20 • NuPrep

Clavis™ • MyoGuide™ • Chalgren • Inoject™  
Large stock of Hypodermic Needles

Tel 905-833-3545 Fax 905-833-3543  
E-mail: [soren@kingmedical.com](mailto:soren@kingmedical.com)  
Web Site: [www.kingmedical.com](http://www.kingmedical.com)

King Medical Ltd.  
145 Kingsworth Road  
King City • Ontario L7B 1K1



**PAEDIATRIC NEUROSURGEON**  
Chief, Division of Paediatric  
Neurosurgery

The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) is actively seeking a Chief of Paediatric Neurosurgery. The successful applicant will lead a team of two other Neurosurgeons and be responsible for the clinical, educational and research activities of the Division.

The successful candidate will hold an academic appointment in the Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery at the University of Ottawa.

#### Key Qualifications:

- Experienced Paediatric Neurosurgeon
- Excellent surgical technical ability
- Must be eligible for licensure in the Province of Ontario
- Strong leadership and administrative skills

Interested candidates should apply with a copy of their curriculum vitae to:

Dr. R. Baxter Willis  
Chief of Surgery  
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario  
401 Smyth Road, Ottawa, ON. K1H 8L1

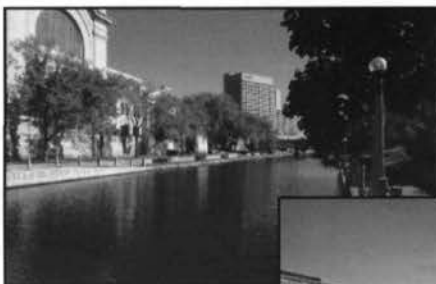
Alternatively, you may electronically send your curriculum vitae to Maureen O'Neil, at [moneil@cheo.on.ca](mailto:moneil@cheo.on.ca)



CANADIAN  
NEUROLOGICAL  
SCIENCES  
FEDERATION  
FÉDÉRATION  
DES SCIENCES  
NEUROLOGIQUES  
DU CANADA



**Join us in Ottawa, Ontario for the 2012 Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation annual congress, June 6-8. Ottawa has been described as one of the most beautiful capitals in the world. Less than an hour's drive from the American border, Ottawa enjoys the attributes of a major centre for the visual and performing arts, as well as other big city attractions. Yet, it still maintains the accessibility, atmosphere and charm of a smaller city, in addition to access to spectacular park and wilderness areas located within and around the city.**





# Pr **AFINITOR**<sup>\*</sup> (everolimus) tablets

2.5 mg, 5 mg and 10 mg  
Antineoplastic Agent (mTOR kinase inhibitor)

## Prescribing Summary

### Patient Selection Criteria

#### INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

**NOC/c:** AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> has been issued marketing authorization with conditions for this indication, pending the results of studies to verify its clinical benefit. Patients should be advised of the nature of the authorization.

AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> is indicated for the treatment of patients 3 years of age or older with subependymal giant cell astrocytoma (SEGA) associated with tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) that have demonstrated serial growth, who are not candidates for surgical resection and for whom immediate surgical intervention is not required.

The efficacy of AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> is based on an analysis of change in SEGA volume in patients receiving treatment for a median of 24.4 months in a single-arm trial of 28 patients (see **CLINICAL TRIALS** section). Clinical benefit such as improvement in disease-related symptoms or increase in overall survival has not been demonstrated.

Prescribers should take into consideration that surgical resection can be curative, while treatment with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> has been shown only to reduce the SEGA volume.

#### Paediatrics (< 18 years of age):

AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> has not been studied in paediatric SEGA patients <3 years of age and is not recommended for use in this age group.

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> is contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to the drug, to other rapamycin derivatives or to any of the excipients. For a complete listing, see the **DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING** section of the Product Monograph (see also **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**).

### Safety Information

#### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

For complete information on warnings and precautions, please also consult the supplemental product information section.

#### SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Treatment with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> should be initiated by a qualified healthcare professional experienced in the treatment of patients with TSC and with access to everolimus therapeutic drug monitoring services.
- Therapeutic drug monitoring of everolimus blood concentrations is required for patients treated for SEGA (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).
- No long-term safety or efficacy data are available regarding AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> use. The optimal duration of AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> therapy for patients with SEGA is not known; however, SEGA re-growth has been reported to occur once therapy is discontinued (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** and **CLINICAL TRIALS, SEGA** sections).
- Non-clinical data suggests that there is a risk of delayed developmental landmarks and delayed reproductive development in patients taking everolimus (see **Toxicities from Long-Term Use** under **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **TOXICOLOGY** sections).

AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh class C).

The following are clinically significant adverse events:

- Non-infectious pneumonitis, including fatalities (see **"Respiratory"** section)
- Infections, including fatalities (see **"Immune"** section)
- Renal failure, including fatalities (see **"Renal"** section)

#### GENERAL

##### Drug-Drug Interactions

Co-administration with strong inhibitors of CYP3A4 or P-glycoprotein (PgP) should be avoided (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

Use caution when administered in combination with moderate CYP3A4 or PgP inhibitors. If AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> must be co-administered with a moderate CYP3A4 or PgP inhibitor, the patient should be carefully monitored for undesirable effects and the dose reduced (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

Co-administration with strong inducers of CYP3A4 or PgP should be avoided due to the risk of reduced effectiveness of the drug.

Exercise caution when AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> is taken in combination with orally administered CYP3A4 substrates

with a narrow therapeutic index due to the potential for drug interactions that may increase blood levels of CYP3A4 substrates. Interaction between AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> and non-orally administered CYP3A4 substrates has not been studied (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

#### Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

Genotoxicity studies showed no evidence of clastogenic or mutagenic activity. Administration of everolimus for up to 2 years did not indicate any oncogenic potential in mice and rats up to the highest doses, corresponding respectively to 3.9 and 0.2 times the estimated clinical exposure from a 10 mg daily dose.

#### Carcinoid tumour

In a randomized, double-blind, multi-centre trial in 429 patients with carcinoid tumours, AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> plus depot octreotide (SANDOSTATIN<sup>\*</sup> LAR<sup>\*</sup>) was compared to placebo plus depot octreotide. The study did not meet the primary efficacy endpoint (PFS) and the OS interim analysis numerically favoured the placebo plus depot octreotide arm (Kaplan-Meier estimates of OS at 24 months: 57.1% [95% CI 49.9; 63.6] for the everolimus plus octreotide arm; 63.3% [95% CI 56.2; 69.5] for the placebo plus depot octreotide arm). Therefore, the use of AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> in patients with carcinoid tumours is not recommended outside an investigational study.

#### Endocrine and Metabolism

**Hyperlipidaemia:** Hypercholesterolaemia and hypertriglyceridaemia have been reported in clinical trials (see **Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions**). Monitoring of fasting lipid profile is recommended prior to the start of AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> therapy and periodically thereafter (see **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**).

**Hyperglycaemia:** Hyperglycaemia has been reported in clinical trials (see **Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions**). Monitoring of fasting serum glucose is recommended prior to the start of AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> therapy and periodically thereafter (see **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**). Optimal glycaemic control should be achieved before starting a patient on AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup>. New onset type 2 diabetes has occurred with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> treatment (see **Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions**).

#### Gastrointestinal

Mucositis (including stomatitis, aphthous stomatitis) is a common adverse event in patients treated with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup>. In the SEGA trial, 86% of the patients receiving AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> experienced mucositis.

For mouth ulcers, stomatitis and oral mucositis topical treatments are recommended, but alcohol- or peroxide-containing mouthwashes should be avoided as they may exacerbate the condition. Antifungal agents should not be used unless fungal infection has been diagnosed (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

#### Haematologic

Decreased haemoglobin, lymphocytes, neutrophils and platelets have been reported in clinical trials (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**). Monitoring of complete blood count is recommended prior to the start of AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> therapy and periodically thereafter.

#### Haemorrhage

Clinical trials in patients with advanced cancers treated with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> have reported all grades of haemorrhage (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**).

#### Immune

**Infections:** AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> has immunosuppressive properties and may predispose patients to bacterial, fungal, viral or protozoal infections, including infections with opportunistic pathogens (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**). Localised and systemic infections, including pneumonia, other bacterial infections and invasive fungal infections, such as aspergillosis or candidiasis and viral infections including reactivation of hepatitis B virus have been described in patients taking AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup>. Some of these infections have been severe (e.g. leading to respiratory or hepatic failure) and occasionally have had a fatal outcome. Physicians and patients should be aware of the increased risk of infection with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup>. Pre-existing infections should be treated and fully resolved prior to starting treatment with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup>. Be vigilant for signs and symptoms of infection; if a diagnosis of infection is made, institute appropriate treatment promptly and consider interruption or discontinuation of AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup>.

If a diagnosis of invasive systemic fungal infection is made, discontinue AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> and treat with appropriate antifungal therapy.

**Vaccinations:** The use of live vaccines and close contact with those who have received live vaccines should be avoided during treatment with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

#### Peri-Operative Considerations

Impaired wound healing is a class effect of rapamycin derivatives, including AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup>. Caution should therefore be exercised with the use of AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> in the peri-surgical period.

#### Renal

Elevations of serum creatinine, usually mild, and proteinuria have been reported in clinical trials (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**). Monitoring of renal function, including measurement of blood urea nitrogen (BUN), urinary protein, or serum creatinine, is recommended prior to the start of AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> therapy and periodically thereafter (see also **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**).

Cases of renal failure (including acute renal failure), some with a fatal outcome, have been observed in patients treated with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> (see also **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS** sections).

#### Respiratory

**Non-infectious pneumonitis:** Non-infectious pneumonitis is a class effect of rapamycin derivatives, including AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup>. In the metastatic renal cell carcinoma (RCC) study, cases of non-infectious pneumonitis (including interstitial lung disease) were reported in 12% to 19% of patients treated with AFINITOR<sup>\*</sup> (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**). Some of these have been severe and on rare occasions, a fatal outcome was observed.



A diagnosis of non-infectious pneumonitis should be considered in patients presenting with non-specific respiratory signs and symptoms such as hypoxia, pleural effusion, cough or dyspnoea, and in whom infectious, neoplastic and other non-medical causes have been excluded by means of appropriate investigations. Patients should be advised to report promptly any new or worsening respiratory symptoms. Patients who develop radiological changes suggestive of non-infectious pneumonitis and have few or no symptoms may continue AFINITOR\* therapy without dose alteration. If symptoms are moderate, consideration should be given to interruption of therapy until symptoms improve. The use of corticosteroids may be indicated. In patients with SEGA, AFINITOR\* may be reintroduced at a daily dose approximately 50% lower than the dose previously administered.

For cases where symptoms of non-infectious pneumonitis are severe, AFINITOR\* therapy should be discontinued and the use of corticosteroids may be indicated until clinical symptoms resolve. In patients with SEGA, therapy with AFINITOR\* may be re-initiated at a daily dose approximately 50% lower than the dose previously administered depending on the individual clinical circumstances.

#### Vascular

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE) events have been reported with AFINITOR\* use in clinical trials (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

#### Sensitivity/Resistance

**Hypersensitivity reactions:** Hypersensitivity reactions manifested by symptoms including, but not limited to, anaphylaxis, dyspnoea, flushing, chest pain or angio-oedema (e.g. swelling of the airways or tongue, with or without respiratory impairment) have been observed with everolimus (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

#### Special Populations

**Pregnant women:** Foetal harm may occur when administered to pregnant women. Apprise women of potential harm to the foetus. Animal studies have shown post-implantation loss in rats and rabbits as well as foetal toxicity at below clinical exposures (see DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY, Toxicology).

**Nursing women:** It is not known whether everolimus is excreted in breast milk. However, in animal studies everolimus and/or its metabolites readily passed into the milk of lactating rats. Women taking AFINITOR\* should therefore not breast-feed.

**Women of childbearing potential:** Women of childbearing potential should be advised to use an effective method of contraception while receiving AFINITOR\*, and for up to 8 weeks after ending treatment.

**Fertility:** The potential for AFINITOR\* to cause infertility in male and female patients is unknown; however, secondary amenorrhoea and associated luteinizing hormone (LH)/follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) imbalance has been observed in female patients. Based on non-clinical findings, male fertility may be compromised by treatment with AFINITOR\* (see DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY, Toxicology).

**Hepatic impairment:** AFINITOR\* is not recommended in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh class C) (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Insufficiency).

#### Toxicities from Long-Term Use

In juvenile rat toxicity studies, dose-related delayed attainment of developmental landmarks including delayed eye-opening, delayed reproductive development in males and females, and increased latency time during the learning and memory phases were observed at doses as low as 0.15 mg/kg/day. There are no long-term clinical data regarding potential developmental risks of long-term everolimus use.

#### Monitoring and Laboratory Tests

Evaluation of CBC and serum chemistries (including blood glucose, lipids, liver function tests, creatinine, BUN, electrolytes, magnesium, calcium and phosphate) and urinary protein should be performed at the beginning of treatment with AFINITOR\* and periodically thereafter.

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

For complete information on adverse reactions, please also consult the supplemental product information section.

#### Adverse Reaction Overview

The data described below reflect exposure to AFINITOR\* (n=28) in a small, single-arm phase II study for the treatment of SEGA. The median age of patients was 11 years (range 3 to 34), 86% were Caucasian and 61% were male. In total, 17 of the 28 patients were exposed to AFINITOR\* for  $\geq 21$  months (range: 4.7 to 37.3 months, median duration of exposure: 24.4 months). Total exposure was 55.2 patient-years. The most common adverse reactions (incidence  $\geq 30\%$ ) were infections, stomatitis and pyrexia. The grade 3 adverse reactions were convulsion, infections (single cases of sinusitis, pneumonia, tooth infection and bronchitis viral) and single cases of stomatitis, aspiration, cyclic neutropenia, sleep apnea syndrome, vomiting, dizziness, white blood cell count decreased and neutrophil count decreased. A grade 4 convulsion was reported.

#### DRUG INTERACTIONS

For complete information on drug interactions, please also consult the supplemental product information section.

Everolimus is a substrate of CYP3A4, and also a substrate and moderate inhibitor of the multidrug efflux pump P-glycoprotein (Pgp). Therefore, absorption and subsequent elimination of everolimus may be influenced by products that affect CYP3A4 and/or Pgp.

*In vitro*, everolimus is a competitive inhibitor of CYP3A4 and a mixed inhibitor of CYP2D6.

#### Drug-Drug Interactions

##### Agents that may increase everolimus blood concentrations:

Everolimus blood concentrations may be increased by substances that inhibit CYP3A4 activity and thus decrease everolimus metabolism.

Everolimus blood concentrations may be increased by inhibitors of Pgp that may decrease the efflux of everolimus from intestinal cells.

Concurrent treatment with strong inhibitors of CYP3A4 or Pgp (including but not limited to ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, atazanavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir, saquinavir, nefazodone, clarithromycin and telithromycin) should be avoided.

##### Agents that may decrease everolimus blood concentrations:

Substances that are inducers of CYP3A4 or Pgp may decrease everolimus blood concentrations by increasing metabolism or the efflux of everolimus from intestinal cells.

Concurrent treatment with strong inducers of CYP3A4 or Pgp should be avoided.

##### To report suspected side effects:

- Report online at [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect)
- Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345
- Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:  
Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program  
Health Canada  
Postal Locator 0701C  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

## Dosage and Administration

For complete dosing considerations, please also consult the supplemental product information section. AFINITOR\* should be administered orally once daily at the same time every day (preferably in the morning) and consistently, either in a fasting state or after no more than a light fat-free meal (see ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

AFINITOR\* tablets should be swallowed whole with a glass of water. The tablets should not be chewed or crushed.

Treatment should continue as long as clinical benefit is observed or until unacceptable toxicity occurs.

#### Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

The recommended starting dose of AFINITOR\* for treatment of patients with SEGA is as follows:

Body Surface Area (BSA)	Starting daily dose
0.5 m <sup>2</sup> to 1.2 m <sup>2</sup>	2.5 mg once daily
1.3 m <sup>2</sup> to 2.1 m <sup>2</sup>	5 mg once daily
Greater than or equal to 2.2 m <sup>2</sup>	7.5 mg once daily

Titration may be required to obtain the optimal therapeutic effect. Doses that are tolerated and effective vary between patients. Concomitant antiepileptic therapy may affect the metabolism of everolimus and may contribute to this variance (see DRUG INTERACTIONS).

Everolimus whole blood trough concentrations should be assessed approximately 2 weeks after commencing treatment. The phase II clinical trial defined the target trough concentration to be 5 to 15 ng/mL, subject to tolerability; however, there was a minimal number of patients (2 out of 28) who achieved an average trough concentration  $>10$  ng/mL. Dosing should be titrated to attain trough concentrations of 5 to 10 ng/mL. If concentrations are below 5 ng/mL, the daily dose may be increased by 2.5 mg every 2 weeks, subject to tolerability, to attain a trough concentration of 5 to 10 ng/mL. If concentrations are between 10 to 15 ng/mL, and the patient has demonstrated adequate tolerability and tumour response, no dose reductions are needed. The dose of AFINITOR\* should be reduced if trough concentrations  $> 15$  ng/ml are observed (see ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

SEGA volume should be evaluated approximately 3 months after commencing AFINITOR\* therapy, and periodically thereafter. The optimal schedule of SEGA volume monitoring is not known; subsequent dose adjustments should take into consideration changes in SEGA volume, corresponding trough concentration and tolerability. Responses have been observed at trough concentrations as low as 2 ng/mL; as such, once acceptable efficacy has been achieved, additional dose increase is not necessary.

The optimal duration of AFINITOR\* therapy for patients with SEGA is not known. SEGA re-growth has been reported to occur upon discontinuation of AFINITOR\* treatment, and progressions have been reported in two patients after 18 and 24 months, respectively, of AFINITOR\* treatment based on independent central review.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

##### Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Table 1 summarizes the incidence of treatment-emergent adverse reactions reported with an incidence of  $\geq 10\%$  (excluding preferred terms related to laboratory abnormalities). Treatment-emergent adverse reactions in Table 1 are listed according to MedDRA system organ class. Within each system organ class, the adverse events are ranked by frequency, with the most frequent events first.

Table 1: Adverse events, irrespective of causality, reported in at least 10% of patients, excluding preferred terms related to laboratory abnormalities

	AFINITOR* N=28		
	All grades %	Grade 3 %	Grade 4 %
Any Adverse Event	28 (100)	10 (36)	1 (4)
Infections and Infestations <sup>a</sup>	25 (89)	4 (14)	0
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>			
Stomatitis	24 (86)	1 (4)	0
Diarrhoea	7 (25)	0	0
Vomiting	6 (21)	1 (4)	0
Abdominal pain	3 (11)	0	0



	AFINITOR* N=28		
	All grades %	Grade 3 %	Grade 4 %
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>			
Constipation	3 (11)	0	0
<b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>			
Pyrexia	9 (32)	0	0
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>			
Convulsion	8 (29)	2 (7)	1 (4)
Headache	5 (18)	0	0
Dizziness	4 (14)	1 (4)	0
<b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>			
Dermatitis acneiform	7 (25)	0	0
Dry skin	5 (18)	0	0
Rash	5 (18)	0	0
Dermatitis contact	4 (14)	0	0
Acne	3 (11)	0	0
<b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>			
Cough	6 (21)	0	0
Nasal congestion	4 (14)	0	0
Rhinitis allergic	4 (14)	0	0
<b>Psychiatric disorders</b>			
Personality change	5 (18)	0	0
<b>Injury, poisoning and procedural complications</b>			
Exacerbation	3 (11)	0	0

CTCAE Version 3.0

\* Includes all preferred terms within the "infections and infestations" system organ class, the most common (incidence  $\geq 10\%$ ) being upper respiratory tract infection (82%), sinusitis (39%), otitis media (36%), cellulitis (21%), body tinea (18%), gastroenteritis (18%), skin infection (18%), gastric infection (14%), otitis externa (14%), and pharyngitis (11%).

Other notable treatment-emergent adverse events occurring with AFINITOR\* with an incidence of  $<10\%$  include:

**Gastrointestinal disorders:** gastritis (7%)

**Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** pityriasis rosea (4%)

**Investigations:** chest X-ray abnormal (4%)

**General disorders and administration site conditions:** fatigue (7%), oedema peripheral (4%)

**Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:** pharyngeal inflammation (7%)

**Nervous system disorders:** somnolence (7%)

**Psychiatric disorders:** anxiety (7%)

**Renal and urinary disorders:** proteinuria (7%)

**Eye disorders:** ocular hyperaemia (4%)

**Vascular disorders:** hypertension (4%)

Single grade 1 reactions are not included.

#### ABNORMAL HAEMATOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL CHEMISTRY FINDINGS

Single cases of grade 3 elevated aspartate transaminase (AST) concentrations and low absolute neutrophil count (ANC) were reported. No grade 4 laboratory abnormalities were noted. Laboratory abnormalities observed in  $> 1$  patient (and listed in decreasing order of frequency) included elevations in AST concentrations (8%), total cholesterol (64%), alanine transaminase (ALT) (46%), triglycerides (43%) (hypertiglyceridaemia reported as adverse reaction in 11% of patients, blood triglycerides increased reported as adverse reaction in 7% of patients), glucose (25%), creatinine (11%), reductions in white blood cell counts (54%) (reported as adverse reaction in 11% of patients), haemoglobin (39%), glucose (32%) and platelet counts (21%). Most of these laboratory abnormalities were mild (grade 1).

Two cases each of neutrophil count decreased and blood immunoglobulin G decreased were reported as adverse reactions.

#### Information from further clinical trials

In clinical trials, everolimus has been associated with serious cases of hepatitis B reactivation, including fatal outcome (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Immune**). Reactivation of infections is an expected event during periods of immunosuppression.

Pulmonary embolism (PE) has been associated with AFINITOR\* use. In one clinical trial (N=426), where there were no differences in median duration of exposure, 6 patients receiving everolimus experienced a PE event compared to 1 patient receiving placebo.

Everolimus has been associated with renal failure events (including fatal ones) and proteinuria. Monitoring of renal function is recommended (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Renal**).

Febile neutropenia has been associated with AFINITOR\* use.

#### DRUG INTERACTIONS

**Agents that may increase everolimus blood concentrations:** There was a significant increase in exposure to everolimus ( $C_{max}$  and AUC increased by 3.9- and 15.0-fold, respectively) in healthy subjects when everolimus was co-administered with ketoconazole (a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor and P-gp inhibitor).

Concomitant treatment with moderate inhibitors of CYP3A4 (including, but not limited to, erythromycin, verapamil, cyclosporine, fluconazole, diltiazem, amprenovir, fosamprenovir, or aprepitant), and moderate P-gp inhibitors requires caution. Reduce the AFINITOR\* dose if co-administered with moderate CYP3A4/P-gp inhibitors (see **DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION AND WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**).

There was an increase in exposure to everolimus in healthy subjects when everolimus was co-administered with:

- erythromycin (a moderate CYP3A4 inhibitor and a P-gp inhibitor;  $C_{max}$  and AUC increased by 2.0- and 4.4-fold, respectively).
- verapamil (a moderate CYP3A4 inhibitor and a P-gp inhibitor;  $C_{max}$  and AUC increased by 2.3- and 3.5-fold, respectively).
- cyclosporine (a CYP3A4 substrate and a P-gp inhibitor;  $C_{max}$  and AUC increased by 1.8- and 2.7-fold, respectively).

Other moderate inhibitors of CYP3A4 and P-gp that may increase everolimus blood concentrations include certain antifungal agents (e.g. fluconazole) and calcium channel blockers (e.g. diltiazem).

**Agents that may decrease everolimus blood concentrations:** Pre-treatment of healthy subjects with multiple doses of rifampicin (a CYP3A4 and P-gp inducer) 600 mg daily for 8 days followed by a single dose of everolimus, increased everolimus oral-dose clearance nearly 3-fold and decreased  $C_{max}$  by 58% and AUC by 63%.

Other strong inducers of CYP3A4 that may increase the metabolism of everolimus and decrease everolimus blood levels include St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), corticosteroids (e.g. dexamethasone, prednisone, prednisolone), anticonvulsants (e.g. carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin) and anti-HIV agents (e.g. efavirenz, nevirapine).

**Agents whose plasma concentration may be altered by everolimus:** Studies in healthy subjects indicate that there are no clinically significant pharmacokinetic interactions between AFINITOR\* and the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors atorvastatin (a CYP3A4 substrate) and pravastatin (a non-CYP3A4 substrate) and population pharmacokinetic analyses also detected no influence of simvastatin (a CYP3A4 substrate) on the clearance of AFINITOR\*. However, these studies were carried out with a 2 mg oral dose of everolimus. The effects of a 10 mg dose have not been studied and therefore pharmacological interactions cannot be ruled out in this setting.

*In vitro*, everolimus competitively inhibited the metabolism of the CYP3A4 substrate cyclosporine and was a mixed inhibitor of the CYP2D6 substrate dextromethorphan. The mean steady-state of everolimus  $C_{max}$  with an oral dose of 10 mg daily or 70 mg weekly is more than 12- to 36-fold below the  $K_i$ -values of the *in vitro* inhibition. An effect of everolimus on the metabolism of CYP3A4 and CYP2D6 substrates was therefore considered to be unlikely.

The effect of everolimus on the pharmacokinetics of the CYP3A4 substrate midazolam has been studied in healthy subjects. Co-administration of an oral dose of midazolam with everolimus resulted in a 25% increase in midazolam  $C_{max}$  and a 30% increase in midazolam  $AUC_{0-24}$ , whereas the metabolic  $AUC_{0-24}$  ratio (1-hydroxy-midazolam/midazolam) and the terminal  $t_{1/2}$  of midazolam were not affected. This indicates that everolimus may increase the blood concentration of orally administered CYP3A4 substrates. Interaction between everolimus and non-orally administered CYP3A4 substrates has not been studied (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**).

Co-administration of everolimus and depot octreotide increased octreotide  $C_{max}$  with a geometric mean ratio (everolimus/placebo) of 1.47 (90% CI: 1.32 to 1.64).

**Vaccinations:** Immunosuppressants may affect the response to vaccination and vaccination during treatment with AFINITOR\* may therefore be less effective. The use of live vaccines should be avoided during treatment with AFINITOR\* (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**). Examples of live vaccines are: intranasal influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, oral polio, BCG, yellow fever, varicella, and TY21, a typhoid vaccine.

#### Drug-Food Interactions

Grapefruit, grapefruit juice, star fruit, Seville oranges, and other foods that are known to affect cytochrome P450 and P-gp activity should be avoided during treatment.

#### Drug-Herb Interactions

St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) is an inducer of CYP3A4 that may increase the metabolism of everolimus and decrease everolimus blood levels.

#### Drug-Laboratory Interactions

Interactions between AFINITOR\* and laboratory tests have not been studied.

#### DOSSING CONSIDERATIONS

Management of severe or intolerable adverse reactions may require temporary dose reduction and/or interruption of therapy (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**). If dose reduction is required for patients receiving 2.5 mg daily, alternate day dosing should be considered.

**Moderate CYP3A4 or P-gp inhibitors:** Use caution when administered in combination with moderate CYP3A4 (e.g., amprenovir, fosamprenovir, aprepitant, erythromycin, fluconazole, verapamil, diltiazem) or P-gp inhibitors. If patients require co-administration of a moderate CYP3A4 or P-gp inhibitor, reduce the daily dose by approximately 50%. Further dose reduction may be required to manage adverse reactions. Everolimus trough concentrations should be assessed approximately 2 weeks after the addition of a moderate CYP3A4 or P-gp inhibitor. If the moderate inhibitor is discontinued, the AFINITOR\* dose should be returned to the dose used prior to initiation of the moderate CYP3A4 or P-gp inhibitor and the everolimus trough concentration should be re-assessed approximately 2 weeks later (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS AND DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

**Strong CYP3A4 inducers:** Avoid the use of concomitant strong CYP3A4 inducers. Patients receiving concomitant strong CYP3A4 inducers (e.g., enzyme inducing antiepileptic drugs; St. John's wort [*Hypericum perforatum*], dexamethasone, prednisone, prednisolone, phenytoin, carbamazepine, rifampin, rifabutin, rifapentine, phenobarbital) may require an increased AFINITOR\* dose to attain trough concentrations of 5 to 10 ng/mL. If concentrations are below 5 ng/mL, the daily dose may be increased by 2.5 mg every 2 weeks, checking the trough level and assessing tolerability before increasing the dose. If the strong inducer is discontinued, the AFINITOR\* dose should be returned to the dose used prior to initiation of the strong CYP3A4 inducer and the everolimus trough concentrations should be assessed approximately 2 weeks later (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS AND DRUG INTERACTIONS**).

**Agents with hepatic impairment:** For patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh class B), the dose should be reduced by approximately 50% and titrated to trough concentrations of 5 to 10 ng/mL. Everolimus has not been evaluated in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh class C) and is not recommended for use in this patient population (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS AND ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Insufficiency**).

**Paediatric patients:** Dosing recommendation for paediatric patients with SEGA are consistent with those for the adult population. AFINITOR\* has not been studied in paediatric SEGA patients  $< 3$  years of age and is currently not recommended for use in this age group.

#### Therapeutic drug monitoring for patients treated for SEGA

Therapeutic drug monitoring of everolimus whole blood concentrations is required for patients treated for SEGA using a validated bioanalytical assay that is specific for everolimus, for example LC/MS. Trough concentrations should be assessed approximately 2 weeks after the initial dose, after any change in dose, or after an initiation or change in co-administration of CYP3A4 or P-gp inducers or inhibitors (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS AND DRUG INTERACTIONS**). Dosing should be titrated with the objective of attaining everolimus trough concentrations of 5 to 10 ng/mL subject to tolerability.

There is limited safety experience with patients having trough concentrations  $> 10$  ng/mL. If concentrations are between 10 to 15 ng/mL, and the patient has demonstrated adequate tolerability and tumour response, no dose reductions are needed. The dose of AFINITOR\* should be reduced if trough concentrations  $> 15$  ng/mL are observed.

If concentrations are  $< 5$  ng/mL, the daily dose may be increased by 2.5 mg every 2 weeks, subject to tolerability. If necessary, the daily dose may be dosed by 2.5 mg every 2 weeks to attain a target of 5 to 10 ng/mL. If dose reduction is required for patients receiving 2.5 mg daily, alternate day dosing should be used.

#### SEGA volume monitoring for patients treated with AFINITOR\*

SEGA volume should be evaluated approximately 3 months after commencing AFINITOR\* therapy, and periodically thereafter. In the phase II clinical study, SEGA volume monitoring was performed at baseline, Month 3, Month 6 and every 6 months thereafter. The optimal schedule of monitoring is unknown, but progressions were reported in two patients at Months 18 and 24, respectively, by independent central review in the phase II study.

#### Missed Dose

AFINITOR\* can still be taken up to 6 hours after the time it is normally taken. After more than 6 hours, the dose should be skipped for that day. The next day, AFINITOR\* should be taken at its usual time. Double doses should not be taken to make up for the one that was missed.

#### OVERDOSAGE

For management of suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre.

In animal studies, everolimus showed a low acute toxic potential. No lethality or severe toxicity was observed in either mice or rats given single oral doses of 2,000 mg/kg (limit test).

Reported experience with overdose in humans is very limited. Single doses of up to 70 mg have been given with acceptable acute tolerability.

There is no specific treatment for AFINITOR\* overdose and general supportive care, including frequent monitoring of vital signs and close observation of the patient, is indicated.

#### ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

##### Mechanism of Action

Everolimus is a signal transduction inhibitor targeting mTOR (mammalian target of rapamycin), or more specifically, mTORC1 (mammalian target of rapamycin complex 1). mTOR is a key serine-threonine kinase playing a central role in the regulation of cell growth, proliferation and survival. The regulation of mTORC1 signalling is complex, being modulated by mitogens, growth factors, energy and nutrient availability. mTORC1 is an essential regulator of global protein synthesis downstream of the PI3K/AKT pathway, which is dysregulated in the majority of human cancers. Consistent with the central regulatory role of mTORC1, its inhibition by everolimus has been shown to reduce cell proliferation, glycolysis and angiogenesis in solid tumours *in vivo*, both through direct anti-tumour cell activity and inhibition of the tumour stromal compartment.

Two primary regulators of mTORC1 signalling are the oncogene suppressors tuberoin-sclerosis complexes 1 & 2 (TSC1, TSC2). Loss or inactivation of either TSC1 or TSC2 leads to elevated rheb-GTP levels, a ras family GTPase, which interacts with the mTORC1 complex to cause its activation. mTORC1 activation leads to a downstream kinase signaling cascade, including activation of the S6K1. In tuberous sclerosis, a genetic disorder, inactivating mutations in either the TSC1 or the TSC2 gene lead to hamartoma formation throughout the body.

Product Monograph available on request.

Last revised February 2, 2012.

**NOVARTIS**

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

Dorval, Quebec H9S 1A9

www.novartis.ca

T 514-631-6775

F 514-631-1867

© 2012 Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

AFINITOR\* is a registered trademark.

SANDOSTATIN\* LAR\* are registered trademarks.

**AFINITOR\***  
(everolimus) tablets

Member  
R&D PAAB

Printed in Canada  
AFI-1204  
0001E





Congress Agenda  
as of February 1, 2012

## 2012 Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation Annual Congress, June 6-8, 2012

Pre-Congress SIGs\* evening of June 5 \*Special Interest Groups

### Tuesday, June 5/12

- 18:00 - 20:00 Movement Disorders SIG *David Grimes, Oksana Suchowersky*  
18:00 - 20:00 Headache SIG *Suzanne Christie*  
18:00 - 20:00 Epilepsy Video SIG *Seyed Mirsattari*  
18:00 - 20:00 Neuromuscular Diseases SIG *Mike Nicolle*

### Wednesday, June 6/12

- 07:00 - 08:45 Delegate Continental Breakfast  
09:00 - 16:45 Neurology Resident Review – Neuromuscular Diseases *Kristine Chapman, Laine Greene*  
09:00 - 16:45 Neurosurgery Resident Review – Neuro-oncology *David Eisenstat, Joe Megyesi, Roberto Diaz*  
09:00 - 12:00 Hydrocephalus Management in the Child and Adult *Mark Hamilton*  
09:00 - 12:00 A Practical Update in Stroke Neurology Course *Dariusz Dowlatshahi*  
09:00 - 12:00 Hot Topics in Child Neurology *Asif Doja*  
12:00 - 13:45 Lunch & Poster Viewing  
12:15 - 13:30 Co-developed Industry Symposium (Stroke)  
12:15 - 13:30 Co-developed Industry Symposium (Headache)  
13:45 - 16:45 Dementia *Andrew Frank*  
13:45 - 16:45 Headache *Jonathan Gladstone*  
13:45 - 16:45 Neurocritical Care *Draga Jichici, Jeanne Teitelbaum*  
16:45 - 19:30 Exhibitors Reception

### Thursday, June 7/12

- 07:00 - 08:15 Delegate Continental Breakfast  
08:30 - 10:45 Grand Plenary – Gloor Lecture: *Lawrence Hirsch*, Tibbles Lecture: *Marjo van der Knaap*, Penfield Lecture: *Hunt Batjer*, Richardson Lecture: *Alain Dagher*  
11:00 - 17:00 Child Neurology Day *Michelle Demos, Cecil Hahn*  
11:00 - 12:30 CNS / CSCN Chair's Select Abstracts  
11:00 - 12:30 CNSS Chair's Select Abstracts  
12:30 - 14:15 Lunch, Exhibit & Poster Viewing  
12:45 - 14:00 Co-developed Industry Symposium (Epilepsy)  
12:45 - 14:00 Co-developed Industry Symposium (Neuropathic Pain)  
14:15 - 17:15 Multiple Sclerosis *Mark Freedman*  
14:15 - 17:15 EEG *Seyed Mirsattari*  
14:15 - 17:15 Neurosurgical Education and Workforce in Canada *Chris Wallace*  
14:15 - 17:15 Evidence Based Neurosurgery *Brian Toyota, Ramesh Sahjpal*  
17:30 - 19:00 Poster Author Stand-by Tour #1  
19:00 Dine-Around

### Friday, June 8/12

- 07:00 - 07:45 Delegate Continental Breakfast  
08:00 - 11:00 Platform Sessions  
11:15 - 13:00 Grand Rounds  
13:15 - 14:45 Lunch, Exhibition & Poster Author Stand-by Tour #2  
14:45 - 17:45 Status Epilepticus & Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy *Sharon Whiting*  
14:45 - 17:45 Genetics of Neurodegenerative Syndromes *Matthew Farrer*  
14:45 - 17:45 Neuro-ophthalmology *Jason Barton*  
14:45 - 17:45 Spinal Neurosurgery: Complication Avoidance & Management *Eric Massicotte*  
14:45 - 17:45 Neurovascular & Interventional Neuroradiology *Gary Redekop*



## Comprehensive diagnostic and consultative muscle, nerve, and neuropathology services



MUSCLE BIOPSY KIT



NERVE BIOPSY KIT



SKIN BIOPSY KIT

### COMPLETE TESTING OF:

- Muscle Biopsies (7-10 days)
- Nerve Biopsies (12-14 days)

### SKIN TESTING FOR:

- Epidermal Nerve Fiber Density (7-10 days)
- Sweat Gland Nerve Fiber Density  
(Analysis performed on the same specimen submitted for Epidermal Nerve Fiber Density)

### CONSULTATION:

- Brain and spinal cord tumor biopsy and resection specimens
- Non-neoplastic brain and spinal cord biopsy specimens
- Brain and spinal cord autopsy specimens, including dementias

### SERVICES:

- Biopsy specimens accepted from Canada Monday through Saturday
- Kits and shipping provided at no charge
- Technical and/or professional services available
- Second set of slides are available for your review on all cases
- TelePathology consultations available with Dr. Hays and/or Dr. Chin

### MUSCLE AND NERVE TEAM

#### Arthur P. Hays, M.D.

Managing Director,  
Director of Nerve Pathology & Research

#### Steven S. Chin, M.D., PhD.

Director of Neuropathology & Muscle Pathology

#### William N. Harrington, M.D.

Medical Laboratory Director  
Epidermal Nerve Fiber Density

#### Marinos C. Dalakas, M.D.

Consultant in Neurology, Muscle & Nerve  
Pathology and Immunopathology

