



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

EMA/127511/2022
EMA/H/C/006039

Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm (*dimethyl fumarate*)

An overview of Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm and why it is authorised in the EU

What is Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm and what is it used for?

Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm is a medicine used to treat multiple sclerosis (MS), a disease in which inflammation damages the protective insulation around nerves (demyelination) as well as the nerves themselves. It is used in adults with a type of MS known as relapsing-remitting MS, where the patient has flare-ups of symptoms (relapses) followed by periods of recovery (remissions).

Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm contains the active substance dimethyl fumarate and is a 'generic medicine'. This means that Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm contains the same active substance and works in the same way as a 'reference medicine' already authorised in the EU called Tecfidera. For more information on generic medicines, see the question-and-answer document [here](#).

How is Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm used?

Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm can only be obtained with a prescription and treatment should be started under the supervision of a doctor experienced in treating MS.

Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm is available as capsules to be taken by mouth with food. The dose is 120 mg twice a day for the first seven days, after which it is increased to 240 mg twice a day. The dose may be reduced temporarily in patients experiencing side effects of flushing and gastrointestinal (stomach and gut) problems.

For more information about using Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm, see the package leaflet or contact your doctor or pharmacist.

How does Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm work?

In MS, the immune system (the body's natural defences) malfunctions and attacks parts of the central nervous system (the brain, spinal cord and the optic nerve of the eye), causing inflammation that damages the nerves and the insulation around them. The active substance, dimethyl fumarate, is thought to work by activating a protein called 'Nrf2' that regulates certain genes that produce 'antioxidants' involved in protecting cells from damage. Dimethyl fumarate has been shown to reduce inflammation and modulate the activity of the immune system.

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How has Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm been studied?

Studies on the benefits and risks of the active substance in the authorised use have already been carried out with the reference medicine, Tecfidera, and do not need to be repeated for Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm.

As for every medicine, the company provided data on the quality of Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm. The company also carried out studies that showed that it is 'bioequivalent' to the reference medicine. Two medicines are bioequivalent when they produce the same levels of the active substance in the body and are therefore expected to have the same effect.

What are the benefits and risks of Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm?

Because Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm is a generic medicine and is bioequivalent to the reference medicine, its benefits and risks are taken as being the same as the reference medicine's.

Why is Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm authorised in the EU?

The European Medicines Agency concluded that, in accordance with EU requirements, Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm has been shown to have comparable quality and to be bioequivalent to Tecfidera. Therefore, the Agency's view was that, as for Tecfidera, the benefits of Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm outweigh the identified risks and it can be authorised for use in the EU.

What measures are being taken to ensure the safe and effective use of Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm?

Recommendations and precautions to be followed by healthcare professionals and patients for the safe and effective use of Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm have been included in the summary of product characteristics and the package leaflet.

As for all medicines, data on the use of Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm are continuously monitored. Suspected side effects reported with Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm are carefully evaluated and any necessary action taken to protect patients.

Other information about Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm

Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm received a marketing authorisation valid throughout the EU on 13 May 2022.

Further information on Dimethyl fumarate Neuraxpharm can be found on the Agency's website: ema.europa.eu/medicines/human/EPAR/dimethyl-fumarate-neuraxpharm. Information on the reference medicine can also be found on the Agency's website.

This overview was last updated in 05-2022.