

Information Sheet

Brabio (glatiramer acetate)

What is Brabio?

Brabio is the brand name for Glatiramer Acetate injection. Brabio is a synthetic combination of four amino acids, resembling the myelin protein which surrounds nerve fibres. It is thought to reduce the immune response that attacks myelin. Brabio is a disease modifying therapy available to people living with relapsing-remitting MS.

There are two different forms of Brabio now available:

- One is injected daily
- The other form is injected three times per week

Who is prescribed Brabio?

Brabio is available to patients who have relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS). Brabio is not indicated in primary or secondary progressive MS.

How is Brabio administered and what is the dosing regimen?

People who are prescribed Brabio administer it via self-injection under the skin (subcutaneous injection). For patients who are prescribed Brabio 20mg/ml this injection is required daily. For patients who are prescribed Brabio 40mg/ml, this required three times per week, given at least 48 hours apart. An automatic injection device (MyJECT) is also available to make injections easier.

For both strengths, everything needed to administer therapy comes in one, ready-to-use syringe. You can administer Brabio yourself or your MS nurse will show you how to do the injections. Your MS nurse is also available to discuss the practicalities and offer advice or training & ongoing support if you should need it.

Will I be given support whilst taking Brabio?

Your healthcare team will provide help and information. In addition, there is a dedicated patient support programme to help facilitate your use of Brabio. This programme is run by a team of specially trained nurses who will visit you at home in order to help you get started on treatment and who will provide training and help with injection techniques and or other queries in relation to Brabio. Once you commence treatment with Brabio, you will have a direct phone number for your specially trained Brabio support nurse. This programme is open and free of charge to anyone with MS who has been prescribed Brabio.

What are the side effects?

The most common side effect is skin reactions at the injection site. They include: reddening of skin, pain, formation of wheals, itching, tissue swelling, inflammation and hypersensitivity at the injection site. These injection site reactions are not unusual and normally decrease over time. You can help reduce your chances of developing injection site reactions through correct technique which your Brabio nurse will guide you with.

Some other very common side effects include:

- nausea
- feeling weak, chest pain, non-specific pain
- infections, flu
- pain in the joints or back
- headache
- anxiety, depression
- skin rash

A full list of potential side effects is included in the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with the medication.

Immediate Post-Injection Reaction (IPIR)

Some people may get one or more of the following symptoms within minutes after injecting Brabio. They normally do not cause any problems and usually disappear within half an hour. However, if the following symptoms last longer than 30 minutes, tell your doctor immediately or go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital:

- Flushing of the chest or face,
- A feeling of tightness in the chest,
- Shortness of breath,
- Rapid and pounding heartbeat (palpitations).

How is it stored?

Keep Brabio package in a safe place that is out of the sight and reach of children. The Brabio package should be refrigerated (2-8 °C) on receipt. Do not freeze. If you cannot refrigerate Brabio, the prefilled syringes can be stored at room temperature (15-25°C) for up to one month.

Do I continue taking Brabio if I am thinking of becoming pregnant?

Brabio should not be used during pregnancy. If you are planning pregnancy, please discuss this with your neurologist.

Can I travel with Brabio?

Brabio therapy can be easily incorporated into all parts of your life, including travel. The following information may be helpful when travelling:

Brabio can be left at room temperature (15-25°C) for up to one month. For trips of longer than a month, make every attempt to keep Brabio refrigerated. Travel kits are available from the Brabio support nurse. This allows Brabio to be conveniently stored with a cooling agent.

For short trips of less than one month, the travel box, the MyJECT pouch supplied by the Brabio support nurse, are a convenient way to store supplies when travelling.

How will I pay for my Brabio?

Brabio is covered by the High Tech Drug (HTD) Scheme eligible for cover under the Long-Term Illness (LTI) scheme.

Brabio research

In the GATE study Brabio (glatiramer acetate) from Mylan was compared to the branded version Copaxone for treatment of relapsing remitting MS:

- Equivalence of Generic Glatiramer Acetate in Multiple Sclerosis: A Randomized Clinical Trial.

In this clinical trial, 794 people with relapsing remitting MS took either Brabio or Copaxone for nine months. The main measures of the study were the number of gadolinium-enhancing lesions, annualised relapse rates and EDSS score, as well as assessing safety and tolerability. As a treatment for relapsing remitting MS compared to Copaxone, Brabio had an equivalent efficacy, safety and tolerability.

Further Information/ Sources:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28090798>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26458034>

http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC_PA0405-099-001_07112016115040.pdf

https://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC_PA0405-101-001_23052018111055.pdf

<https://www.mstrust.org.uk/a-z/brabio-glatiramer-acetate>

Disclaimer: MS Ireland provides information to the MS Community on an array of topics associated with MS. This information is for reference purposes only and medical or professional advice should always be sought before any treatment or intervention is tried. Authors: This information has been authored by MS Ireland and reviewed by MS Ireland's Advisory Panel.