Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

MHRA

Early Access to Medicines Scheme – Treatment protocol – Information for patients

Introduction

The aim of the Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS) is to provide earlier availability of promising new unlicensed medicines (medicines that do not have a marketing authorisation or are used outside their licence) to UK patients that have a high unmet clinical need. The medicines included in the scheme after they have received a positive scientific opinion are those that are intended to treat, diagnose or prevent seriously debilitating or life-threatening conditions where there are no adequate treatment options. More information about the scheme can be found here: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Howweregulate/Innovation/EarlyaccesstomedicinesschemeEAMS/index.htm

The information below is intended for you, the patient, and is provided by the pharmaceutical company (called scientific opinion holder) that manufactures the EAMS medicine. This medicine, which does not yet have a drug licence or is used outside its licence, may also be used in combination with other medicines. More information about medicines licensing can be found here: http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/medicines-information

This medicine can be prescribed for individual patients to meet specific needs provided they are given sufficient information about the medicine to make an informed decision. Your physician will be responsible for giving you all the information you need to make this decision and for obtaining informed consent from you prior to treatment. You will be asked to sign a form to confirm that you are providing informed consent to receiving the EAMS treatment. Information on consent can be found here:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Consent-to-treatment

The information below is provided to help you decide with your physician on whether to use the EAMS medicine and helps explain how to use it in accordance with the pharmaceutical company's instructions for safe and proper use. A positive scientific opinion is not a recommendation for use of the medicine and should not be interpreted as such. Under EAMS, the risk and legal responsibility for prescribing the medicine remains with the physician, and the opinion and EAMS documentation published by the MHRA are intended only to inform physicians' decision making and not to recommend use. An EAMS scientific opinion does not affect the civil liability of the manufacturer or any physician in relation to the product.

The information below may change during the time you are using the medicine if more data become available. Your physician will highlight to you any changes that you need to be aware of.

Whilst you are using this medicine, data will be collected on the use and safety profile of the medicine, to ensure that the benefits of taking the medicine continue to outweigh any potential risks. Your physician will answer all your questions during and after the treatment and will provide you with contact details that you should use in case of any events or problems.

Each patient enrolled in the scheme will continue to receive the EAMS product until the end of the treatment in line with prescribing and NHS guidance and as long as benefit is seen. In rare cases where the EAMS treatment may not be available anymore, your physician will discuss other options with you.

Information for the patient

Avalglucosidase alfa 100 mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or nurse.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What avalglucosidase alfa is and what it is used for

What avalglucosidase alfa is

Avalglucosidase alfa contains an artificial enzyme called avalglucosidase alfa, which can replace the natural enzyme that is lacking in Pompe disease.

Avalglucosidase alfa is used to treat adults and children with late-onset Pompe disease (LOPD) who have symptoms and who have already received treatment with with alglucosidase alfa for at least 2 years; and adults and children at least 1 year of age with infantile-onset Pompe disease (IOPD) who have symptoms and have already received treatment with alglucosidase alfa for at least 6 months.

What avalglucosidase alfa is used for
People with Pompe disease have low levels of an enzyme called acid alpha-glucosidase. This enzyme helps the body control levels of glycogen (a type of carbohydrate). Glycogen provides the body with energy, but in Pompe disease the levels of glycogen can get too high.

2. What you need to know before you are given avalglucosidase alfa

You must not be given avalglucosidase alfa
If you have experienced life-threatening allergic (hypersensitive) reactions to avalglucosidase alfa or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6) and re-administration of the medicine was not successful. Symptoms of life-threatening allergic reactions include, but are not limited to, low blood pressure, very fast heart rate, difficulty breathing, vomiting, facial swelling, hives or rash.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor or pharmacist or nurse before using avalglucosidase alfa.

If you are treated with avalglucosidase alfa, you may experience an allergic reaction or infusion-associated reaction (IAR) while you are being given the medicine or during the hours following the infusion.

Allergic reactions may include symptoms such as difficulty breathing, chest pressure, generalized flushing, cough, dizziness, nausea, swollen lower lip and tongue, redness on palms or feet, itchy palms or feet, and rash. If you experience a reaction like this, you should **tell your doctor immediately**.

If you have experienced life-threatening allergic (hypersensitive) reactions to alglucosidase alfa (Myozyme), your doctor should consider the risks and benefits of administering avalglucosidase alfa.

IARs may include symptoms such as chest discomfort, increased blood pressure, chills, cough, diarrhoea, redness of skin, fatigue, headache, influenza-like illness, nausea, redness of eye, pain in extremity, itchy skin, rash, red rash, increase in heart rate, hives or vomiting (See Side effects section). If you experience a reaction similar to this, you should **tell your doctor immediately.**

You may need to be given pre-treatment medicines to prevent an allergic or infusion-associated reaction (e.g., antihistamines and/or corticosteroids) or to reduce fever (antipyretics).

If you experience swelling of your lower limbs or generalized swelling, please inform your doctor. Your doctor should consider discontinuation of the administration of avalglucosidase alfa and initiate appropriate medical treatment. Your doctor should consider the risks and benefits of re-administering avalgucosidase alfa.

Children and adolescents
This medicine should not be given to children less than 1 year of age. This is because the effects of avalglucosidase in this age group are not known.

Other medicines and avalglucosidase alfa
Tell your doctor or nurse if you are using, have recently used, or might use any other medicines. This includes medicines obtained without a prescription, including herbal medicines.

Contraception, pregnancy and breast-feeding
If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby talk to your doctor for advice before using this medicine. There is no experience with the use of avalglucosidase alfa in pregnant women. Do not take avalglucosidase alfa during pregnancy unless your doctor specifically recommends it. You and your doctor should decide if you should use avalglucosidase alfa if you are breastfeeding.

Driving, cycling and using machines
Take care when driving or using any tools or machines shortly after infusion of avalglucosidase alfa, since you may experience dizziness.

3. How avalglucosidase alfa is given

Avalglucosidase alfa will be given to you under the supervision of a health care professional who is experienced in the treatment of Pompe disease.

Avalglucosidase alfa is given through a drip into a vein (by intravenous infusion). It is supplied as a powder that will be mixed with sterile water before it is given.

How much avalglucosidase alfa is given
The dose you receive is based on your body weight and will be given to you once every other week.
Late-onset Pompe disease (LOPD) – The recommended dosage of avalglucosidase alfa is 20 mg/kg of body weight.
Infantile-onset Pompe disease (IOPD) – The recommended dosage of avalglucosidase alfa is 40 mg/kg of body weight.

If you are given too much avalglucosidase alfa
There is no experience with overdose of avalglucosidase alfa.

If you miss a dose of avalglucosidase alfa, please contact your doctor.

If you have further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Side effects were mainly seen while patients were being given the medicine or shortly after ('infusion associated reactions' (IARs)). The majority of the IARs were mild to moderate, but some infusion related side effects were serious including generalised allergic reactions. Symptoms of such reactions include difficulty

breathing, chest pressure, flushing, cough, dizziness, nausea, redness and/or itchy palms and feet, rash, swollen tongue and swollen lip. **Should you experience any reaction like this, tell your doctor immediately**. You may need to be given pre-treatment medicines to prevent an allergic reaction (e.g., antihistamines and/or corticosteroids) or to reduce fever (antipyretics).

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people

- Allergic reaction (Hypersensitivity)
- Headache
- Nausea
- Itchy skin
- Hives
- Rash
- Fatigue
- Chills

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)
- Dizziness
- Redness of the eye
- High blood pressure
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting
- Lip swelling
- Redness of skin
- Muscle spasms
- Muscle aches
- Chest discomfort
- Pain
- Flu-like symptoms
- Fever
- Reaction at the site of the drip
- Lower blood oxygen levels

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- Tremor
- Tingling
- Itchy eyes
- Watery eyes
- Inflammation of membrane that covers eyeball and eyelid
- Increased heart rate
- Extra heartbeats
- Flushing
- Low blood pressure
- Increased breathing rate
- Throat swelling
- Throat irritation
- Swollen tongue
- Abdominal pain
- Redness of the palms
- Swelling underneath the skin (angioedema)
- Excess sweating
- Facial pain
- Swelling of the arms and legs

5. How to store avalglucosidase alfa

Store in refrigerator between 2°C to 8°C. After dilution, an immediate use is recommended. The reconstituted product can be stored up to 24 hours when refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C and diluted product can be stored up to 24 hours when refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C and up to 9 hours (including infusion time) when stored at room temperature (up to 27°C) when protected from light.

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What avalglucosidase alfa contains
The active substance is avalglucosidase alfa. One vial contains 100 mg of avalglucosidase alfa. After reconstitution, the solution contains 10 mg of avalglucosidase alfa per ml and after dilution the concentration varies from 0.5 mg/mL to 4 mg/ml.
The other ingredients are

- L-Histidine
- L-Histidine HCl monohydrate
- Glycine
- Mannitol
- Polysorbate

What avalglucosidase alfa looks like and contents of the pack
Avalglucosidase alfa is a powder for concentrate for solution for infusion in a vial (100 mg/vial). Each pack contains 1, 5, 10 or 25 vials. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

The powder is white to pale yellow. After reconstitution it is a clear, colourless to pale yellow solution, which may contain particles. The reconstituted solution must be further diluted.

Scientific Opinion Holder and manufacturer

Scientific Opinion Holder
Aventis Pharma Ltd t/a Sanofi,
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Manufacturer
Genzyme Ireland Limited,
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Ireland

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Additional information

Informed Consent/Assent Form

All patients will have the Early Access to Medicines Scheme explained to them using the informed consent form. The patient will be asked to sign this form and a copy will be given to them to keep. If the patient is a child under 16 years of age, consent on their behalf by their carer, parent or legal guardian is required.

Patient Alert Card

Before treatment starts, all patients/their parents/guardians (as appropriate) will have the scheme explained to them by the treating physician and will be given a Patient Alert Card. This is a wallet-card sized and the patient/their parent/ guardian must be instructed to always carry it with them. It summarises what to do should they experience any side effects. In addition, it serves to inform any other healthcare professional that may treat the patient that they are receiving Avalglucosidase alfa through an early access scheme and about the signs and symptoms to look out for. Further it provides information about their physician's out of hours contact details and the Company's contact information.

Patient data to be collected

Patient data collected during the scheme are mostly used for safety surveillance and cannot replace a proper clinical trial to support a marketing authorisation. These data are required by the MHRA to help verify that the patient's condition complies with the EAMS indication and help interpret the side effects and other events occurring during and after the EAMS treatment. These data include demographics (including age and gender), body weight; medical history including comorbidities and concomitant medications, dose and duration of treatment, all medically confirmed adverse events and condition which the product is being used for.

Contact information

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