



مدينة الملك فهد الطبية
King Fahad Medical City



Interferon Beta-1a

Avonex[®]

What is this drug used for?

It is used to treat MS (multiple sclerosis).

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?


- ✓ **If you have an allergy to interferon beta-1a or any other part of this drug.**
- ✓ **About all your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems.**

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?



 **Tell all your health care providers that you take this drug.**


 **You may bleed more easily, avoid injury and use a soft toothbrush and an electric razor.**

 **You may have more chance of getting an infection, wash hands often and stay away from infected people.**





 **Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor.**

 **Call your doctor if you have any skin changes.**

 **Call your doctor if you feel very tired or weak or have any bruising or bleeding, change in balance, change in eyesight, change in how much urine is passed, dark urine, fever, pale skin, trouble speaking or thinking, weakness on 1 side**

of the body, or yellow skin or eyes.

 **Heart failure has happened or gotten worse in people who already have it.**

 **Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant or breast-feeding.**



What are side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

If you have any of the following signs or symptoms:

- ✓ **Allergic reaction with or without fever, wheezing, tightness in the chest or throat, trouble breathing or talking, unusual hoarseness, or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.**
- ✓ **Infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, pain with passing**

urine, mouth sores, or not healed wound.

- ✓ **Low mood (depression), thoughts of killing yourself, nervousness, emotional, abnormal thinking, anxiety.**
- ✓ **Bleeding from anywhere, like coughing up blood, in the urine, tarry stools, from the gums, vaginal, bruises.**
- ✓ **Thyroid problems, change in weight, feeling nervous and excitable, restless, very weak, hair thinning, low mood (depression), neck swelling, not able to focus, not able to handle heat or cold, period (menstrual) changes, shakiness, or sweating.**
- ✓ **Passing urine more often. Chest pain or pressure or a fast heartbeat. Seizures, dizziness.**
- ✓ **Liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired,**

not hungry, upset stomach, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.

- ✓ **Flu-like signs, headache, weakness, fever, shakes, aches, pains, and sweating.**

How is this drug best taken?

- ❑ **It is given as a shot into a muscle.**

Do not shake.

- ❑ **Use right away after mixing or you may store in a refrigerator for up to 6 hours.**

- ❑ **Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles or changes color.**

- ❑ **Do not give into skin that is irritated, bruised, red, infected, or scarred.**

- ❑ **Before giving the shot, let it come to room temperature.**

- ❑ **Wash your hands before and after**



use. Move the site where you give the shot with each shot.

- ❑ Throw away needles in a needle/sharp disposal box & don't reuse needles or other items.**



- ❑ Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it, if the next dose is less than 48 hours away, call your doctor.**



How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

Store in a refrigerator, don't freeze, protect from heat and Protect from light.

❖ Avonex vials:

- * May store unopened vials at room temperature.**
- * Throw away after 1 month. Use right away**

after mixing or you may store in a refrigerator for up to 6 hours.

- * Throw away any part left over after the dose is given.**

❖ Avonex syringes or pens:

- * You may store syringes or pens at room temperature. Throw away after 7 days.**
- * Throw away any part left over after the dose is given.**

❖ Rebif®:

- * If you cannot store in a refrigerator, you may store at room temperature for up to 30 days.**

❖ Rebif syringes or pens:

- * Throw away any part left over after the dose is given.**

General drug facts:

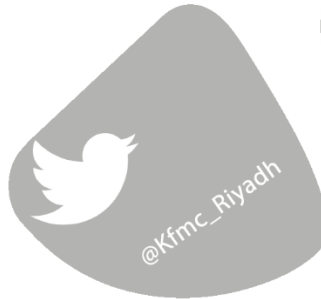
- **If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.**
- **Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.**
- **Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your doctor.**
- **Talk with the doctor before starting any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.**
- **Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.**
- **If you think there has been an overdose, call**

your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

لأن الوعي وقاية ..

إدارة التثقيف الصحي

**Clinical Pharmacy
Dept.**





HEM2.17.000620