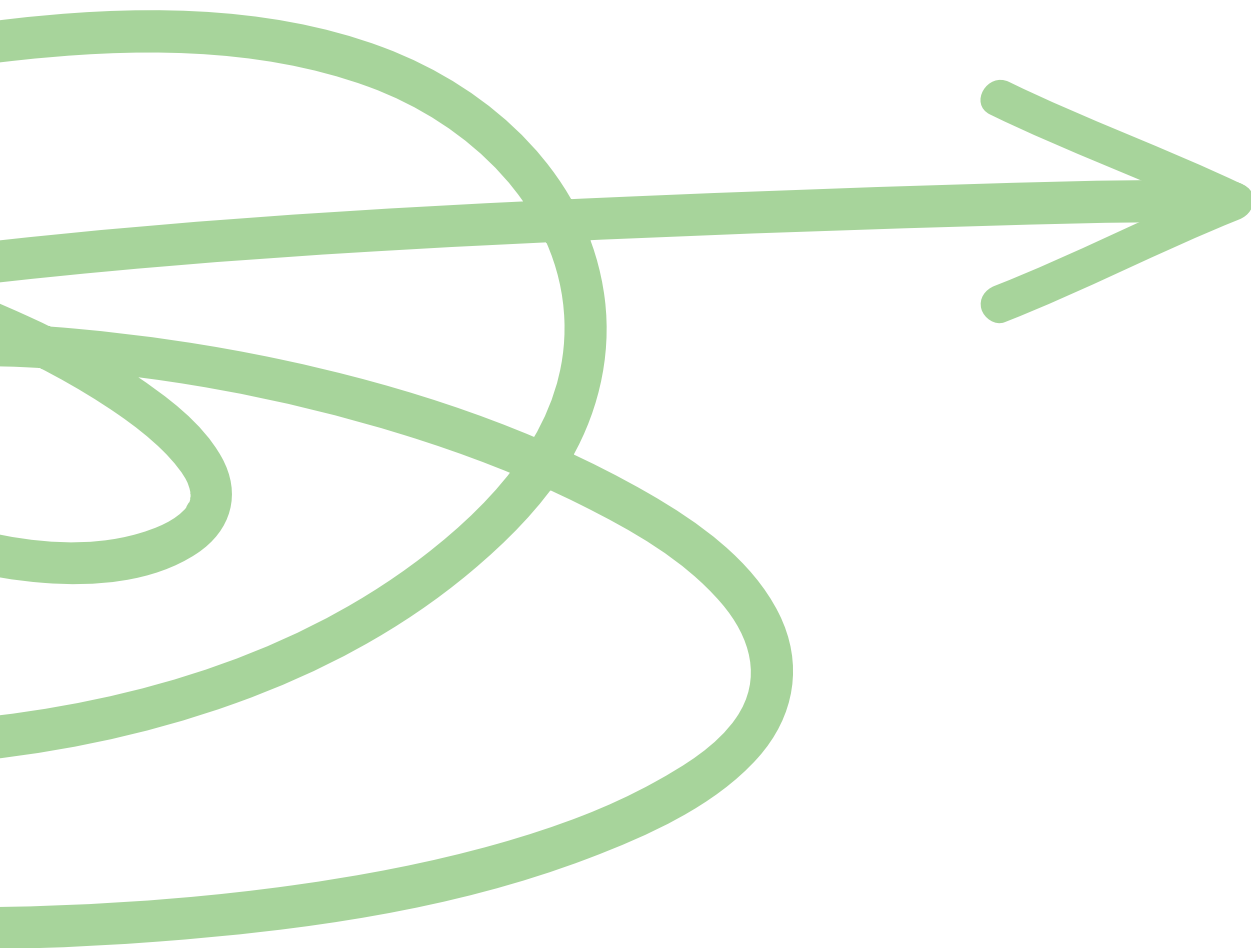


Disease modifying drugs

Comparing treatments for relapsing MS



Use this fold out table to compare the disease modifying drugs (DMDs) used in relapsing remitting MS.																	
Drug name	Avonex and Rebif	Betaferon and Extavia	Plegridy	Copaxone and Brabio	Aubagio	Tecfidera	Vumerity	Gilenya	Ponvory	Zeposia	Mavenclad	Kesimpta	Ocrevus	Tysabri	Lemtrada	Drug name	
Chemical name	interferon beta 1a	interferon beta 1b	peginterferon beta	glatiramer acetate	teriflunomide	dimethyl fumarate	diroximel fumarate	fingolimod	ponesimod	ozanimod	cladribine	ofatumumab	ocrelizumab	natalizumab	alemtuzumab	Chemical name	
What kind of MS?	CIS Active RRMS	CIS Active RRMS	Active RRMS	CIS Active RRMS	Active RRMS	Active RRMS	Active RRMS	Active RRMS Very active RRMS	Active RRMS	Active RRMS	Very active RRMS	Active RRMS Very active RRMS	Active RRMS Very active RRMS	Very active RRMS	Very active RRMS	What kind of MS?	
How do I take it?	 Once a week (A) Three times a week (R)	 Every other day	 Once a fortnight	 Every day or three times a week	 One pill, once a day	 One pill, twice a day	 Two pills, twice a day	 One pill, once a day	 One pill, once a day	 One pill, once a day	 One pill, once a day	 Two short courses 12 months apart	 Self-injection once a month	 Infusion in hospital once every 6 months	 Infusion in hospital once a month	 Two infusions in hospital 12 months apart	How do I take it?
How is it monitored?	Regular blood tests	Regular blood tests	Regular blood tests	No routine monitoring required	Blood and urine tests every 6 months	Blood and urine tests every 3-6 months	Blood and urine tests every 3-6 months	Regular blood tests, skin and eye checks	Regular blood tests, skin and eye checks	Regular blood tests, skin and eye checks	Blood and urine tests every 3-6 months	No routine monitoring required	Health check at each infusion	Health check at each infusion	Regular blood and urine tests continuing four years after last infusion	How is it monitored?	
Effectiveness for relapses											 					Effectiveness for relapses	
Will it increase my risk of infections?	No	No	No	No	Some increased risk of infection	No	No	Higher risk of infection	Higher risk of infection	Higher risk of infection	Some increased risk of infection	Some increased risk of infection	Higher risk of infection	Some increased risk of infection	Higher risk of infection	Will it increase my risk of infections?	
What vaccines can I take?	Live and inactivated vaccines can be taken	Live and inactivated vaccines can be taken	Live and inactivated vaccines can be taken	Live and inactivated vaccines can be taken	Inactivated vaccines can be taken. No live vaccines	Live and inactivated vaccines can be taken	Live and inactivated vaccines can be taken	Complete vaccines before treatment. No live vaccines	Complete vaccines before treatment. No live vaccines	Complete vaccines before treatment. No live vaccines	Complete vaccines before treatment. No live vaccines	Complete vaccines before treatment. No live vaccines	Complete vaccines before treatment. No live vaccines	Complete vaccines before treatment. No live vaccines	Live and inactivated vaccines can be taken	Complete vaccines before treatment. No live vaccines	What vaccines can I take?
Can this be taken during pregnancy?	May be taken with guidance	May be taken with guidance	May be taken with guidance	Yes. Copaxone is licenced for use in pregnancy	No. Risk of harm to baby	Not usually recommended but may be used in some circumstances	Not recommended unless benefits outweigh risks to mother and baby	No. Risk of harm to baby	No. Risk of harm to baby	No. Risk of harm to baby	No. Risk of harm to baby	Not usually recommended but may be used in some circumstances	Not usually recommended but may be used in some circumstances	Not usually recommended but may be used in some circumstances	Not recommended until 4 months after last infusion	Can this be taken during pregnancy?	
Can this be taken while breastfeeding?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No. Risk of harm to baby	Not usually recommended	Not recommended	No. Risk of harm to baby	No. Risk of harm to baby	No. Risk of harm to baby	No. Risk of harm to baby	Yes	Not usually recommended	Not usually recommended	Not recommended	Can this be taken while breastfeeding?	
Common or mild side effects	Flu-like symptoms, injection site reactions, headache	Flu-like symptoms, injection site reactions, headache	Flu-like symptoms, injection site reactions, headache	Injection site reactions, headache, feeling sick	Headache, nausea, hair thinning, infections	Flushing, nausea, stomach pains, diarrhoea	Flushing, nausea, diarrhoea	Coughs, low mood, headache, diarrhoea, back pain, infections	Coughs, colds, low mood, infections, shingles	Coughs, colds, slow heart rate, infections	Low white blood cells, shingles, cold sores, hair thinning	Injection site reactions, infections, headache, chills, tiredness	Infections, infusion reactions, cold sores and shingles	Headache, dizziness, feeling sick, infections	Infusion reactions, infections, thyroid disorder	Common or mild side effects	
Rare or serious side effects				Rare post-injection reaction	Peripheral neuropathy, liver damage, bleeding	Rare cases of PML (brain infection), shingles	Potential for PML (brain infection)	Shingles, macular oedema, inc. risk skin cancer, potential PML	Slow heart rate, macular oedema, inc. risk skin cancer, potential PML	Shingles, macular oedema	Liver injury			PML – rare brain infection	Blood clotting disorder, kidney problems	Rare or serious side effects	
Additional information	Store in fridge		Store in fridge	Store in fridge	Contains lactose	Contains beef gelatin		Contains beef gelatin Limit exposure to UV light	Limit exposure to UV light	Limit exposure to UV light						Additional information	

Key

Drug name	This is the manufacturer's brand name for the drug.
Chemical name	This is the name of the active chemical in the drug.
What kind of MS is it for?	Disease modifying drugs are prescribed using strict criteria based on how active your MS is. Ask your MS team if you are not sure about your own diagnosis. CIS: You have had a first episode of symptoms that may go on to become MS. Active RRMS: You have had two relapses in the past two years, or one relapse plus MRI evidence of MS activity. Very active RRMS: You still have relapses even while taking a DMD for a year or you have had two or more severe or disabling relapses in the past year and show new lesions on two consecutive MRI scans.
How do I take it?	 self-injector  injection  tablet  infusion
How is it monitored?	What tests will I have while taking the DMD, to ensure that my MS team can detect any safety issues?
Effectiveness for relapses	Disease modifying drugs can be categorised based on how effective they are at reducing the frequency of relapses in people with relapsing remitting MS. There are other ways of measuring how effective a DMD is. Ask your neurologist for more information about how well they expect the DMDs to work for you.  Moderately effective – reduces relapse frequency by around 1/3  More effective – reduces relapse frequency by around 1/2  Highly effective – reduces relapse frequency by around 2/3
Increased risk of infection?	Is there an increased risk of infection while you are taking this DMD? Including chest infections, colds, coughs and urinary tract infections.
Vaccines	How does this DMD affect the safety and effectiveness of vaccines?
Pregnancy	Can this DMD be taken during pregnancy?
Breastfeeding	Can this DMD be taken while breastfeeding?
Common, mild side effects	These side effects have been noticed by more than 1 in 100 people taking the DMD. They are mild to moderate in impact and normally ease with time. They are unlikely to persist after stopping the DMD.
Rare, serious side effects	These side effects have been noticed by less than 1 in 100 people taking the DMD. They can be serious if untreated. The impact of these side effects may persist after stopping the DMD.
Additional information	Anything else that might affect the choice of DMD that is right for you.

Further sources of information and support

Further information on each of the DMDs can be found in our companion book:



Disease modifying drugs: a guide to treatments for relapsing MS

You can order this book and many others free at:
shop.mstrust.org.uk/publications

MS Decisions

You can also read more about DMDs on our website and use our interactive decision aid.

mstrust.org.uk/ms-decisions

About the authors

We are a UK charity that believes nobody should have to manage multiple sclerosis alone. We are here for everyone affected by MS, from diagnosis and throughout their journey.

Bibliographical information

MS Trust Information Team

Disease modifying drugs: Comparing treatments for relapsing MS

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Helpline

If you have any questions about MS,
call our free helpline on **0800 032 3839**

You can email questions to
ask@mstrust.org.uk



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