WHO-PQ RECOMMENDED PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

This patient information leaflet focuses on uses of the medicine covered by WHO's Prequalification Team - Medicines. The recommendations for use are based on WHO guidelines and on information from stringent regulatory authorities.[*]

The medicine may be authorised for additional or different uses by national medicines regulatory authorities.

[*] https://extranet.who.int/prequal/sites/default/files/document_files/75%20SRA%20clarification_Feb2017_newtempl.pdf

Information for the patient

[NT017 trade name][†]
Miltefosine

The warnings and instructions in this leaflet are intended for the person taking the medicine. If you are a parent or carer responsible for giving the medicine to someone else such as a child, you will need to apply the instructions accordingly.

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have questions about the medicine, ask your health care provider.
- This medicine is for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their illness seems to be the same as yours.
- If you are concerned about any side effects, talk to your health care provider. This includes unwanted effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What [NT017 trade name] is and what it is used for

[NT017 trade name] is a medicine that contains the active substance miltefosine, which is active against infections caused by certain types of *Leishmania*. *Leishmania* are tiny single-celled parasites (protozoa) that can cause diseases after you are bitten by an infected sand fly.

[NT017 trade name] is used to treat:

- Visceral leishmaniasis, a serious infection of the internal organs caused by *Leishmania donovani*
- Cutaneous leishmaniasis, a skin infection caused by *L. braziliensis, L. guyanensis, L. panamensis* or *L. mexicana.*

Your health care provider may also give you other medicines as part of your treatment.

2. What you need to know before you take [NT017 trade name]

Do not take [NT017 trade name]

- if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to miltefosine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- if you suffer from Sjögren-Larsson syndrome (a very rare, inherited disorder leading to dry, scaly skin, nervous system and mental problems)
- if you are pregnant

[†] Trade names are not prequalified by WHO. This is the national medicines regulatory agency's responsibility.

Women who can have children and might get pregnant must not take [NT017 trade name] without practising reliable contraceptive protection. This must be ensured for a further 3 months after treatment has ended (see also section below on "Pregnancy").

Warnings and precautions

Skin sores

If the infection affects your skin, your health care provider will advise you how to care for the sores (lesions) and how to recognize new infections.

Liver and kidney dysfunction

Patients with severe liver and kidney dysfunction have not been studied. [NT017 trade name] can cause problems with your kidneys and liver that affect how well they work. For this reason, your health care provider will carry out regular urine and blood tests to check your kidney and liver function during treatment and for a few weeks afterwards. If your kidney function is significantly affected, testing will continue until values return to normal. This medicine has not been studied in patients with existing severe liver or kidney problems. Talk to your health care provider before taking [NT017 trade name] if you have existing problems affecting your liver or kidneys.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Vomiting and diarrhoea are possible side effects of therapy with [NT017 trade name] (see also section below on "Side effects"). If these side effects persist over a prolonged period, it is important that you drink sufficient liquid to compensate for fluid loss, so that the risk of impaired kidney function is avoided.

Eye problems

Eye problems, such as inflammation of the cornea (keratitis), can be symptoms of *Leishmania* infection. In a few cases, eye problems have occurred after [NT017 trade name] has been taken for several weeks. Contact your health care provider immediately if you notice any eye problems (see also below under "Side effects") as he or she may want to switch your treatment and refer you to an eye specialist.

Blood platelets

If you are being treated for visceral leishmaniasis your health care provider may also carry out blood tests to check the level of blood platelets (part of your blood that helps it to clot).

Other medicines and [NT017 trade name]

Tell your health care provider if you are taking, have recently taken or might take, any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

Ask your health care provider for advice before taking any medicine.

Pregnancy

[NT017 trade name] might cause harm to a developing baby. If you are a woman who could become pregnant, your health care provider will want you to have a pregnancy test to make sure that you are not pregnant before starting treatment with [NT017 trade name]. If you could get pregnant, you must use reliable contraception during treatment and for at least 3 months after treatment ends.

Vomiting and diarrhoea are very common side effects of therapy with [NT017 trade name] and may stop contraceptive pills from working properly. Tell your health care provider immediately if you experience these side effects, so that another reliable form of contraception can be used.

If you suspect that you are pregnant during treatment with [NT017 trade name] or within 3 months of ending treatment (e.g., absence of menstrual bleeding), talk to your health care provider right away, so that a pregnancy test can be carried out. If this test confirms that you are pregnant, they will discuss the risk for your child with you.

Breast-feeding

[NT017 trade name] may not be taken during breast-feeding; otherwise, weaning is required. Breast-feeding should be avoided for 5 months after treatment with [NT017 trade name].

Fertility

Studies in male rats given this medicine showed that they were less able to father babies. However, male patients treated in clinical studies with [NT017 trade name] did not show any evidence of impaired fertility.

Driving and using machines

Even when used as directed, the known side effects of [NT017 trade name] may impair the ability to drive and use machines. For this reason, you must not drive, use machines or perform other hazardous activities if affected.

Other ingredients of [NT017 trade name]

[NT017 trade name] contains lactose. Lactose is a source of glucose and galactose. The small amount of lactose in each dose is unlikely to cause symptoms of lactose intolerance in other patients. If, however, you have one of the rare genetic disorders galactosaemia, glucose-galactose intolerance or congenital lactase deficiency you must talk to your health care provider before taking this medicine.

It is important to consider the contribution of excipients from all the medicines that the patient is taking.

3. How to take [NT017 trade name]

The dose of [NT017 trade name] your health care provider recommends will depend on what kind of leishmaniasis infection you have, and on your age and weight as well as other conditions you may have. In some cases, treatment will depend on where you live or caught the infection. Always take [NT017 trade name] exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to.

Continue with the full course every day, even if you feel better. If you stop taking [NT017 trade name] too soon, the infection may return.

[NT017 trade name] should be taken with water, after a meal to reduce stomach side effects.

Visceral leishmaniasis due to *L. donovani*

The recommended dose of [NT017 trade name] depends on your weight:

- If you weigh between 30 and up to 45 kg, the recommended dose is one capsule twice a day.
- If you weigh 45 kg or more, the recommended dose is one capsule 3 times a day.

Treatment is given for 28 days.

If you also have HIV infection

If you have visceral leishmaniasis caused by *L donovani* but you are also living with HIV, you will be given [NT017 trade name] along with another medicine called liposomal amphotericin B. The length of your treatment will depend on where you live or caught the infection.

Patients in East Africa

Adults

Take one capsule twice a day for 28 days.

Children aged 12 years and older

For a child weighing less than 25 kg, the dose is one capsule daily for 28 days.

For a child weighing 25 to 50 kg, the dose is one capsule twice a day for 28 days.

Patients in South-East Asia

Adults

Take one capsule twice a day for 14 consecutive days.

Children aged 12 years and older

For a child weighing less than 25 kg, the dose is one capsule daily for 14 days.

For a child weighing 25 to 50 kg, the dose is one capsule twice a day for 14 days.

Cutaneous leishmaniasis

Adults infected with *L. braziliensis, L. guyanensis, L. panamensis* or *L. mexicana*

Take one capsule three times a day for 28 days.

Children weighing over 45 kg infected with *L. panamensis, L. guyanensis* or *L. braziliensis.*

The recommended dose is one capsule three times a day for 28 days.

If you forget to take [NT017 trade name], take it as soon as you can. Take your next dose at the right time. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you take more [NT017 trade name] than you should, you may feel unwell and should contact your healthcare provider.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, [NT017 trade name] can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people who take the medicine)
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- nausea
- a rise in liver enzymes, e.g., AST ALT (which can be determined via a blood test).

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)
- loss of appetite
- increased blood levels of creatinine and urea (metabolic products), which are a sign of kidney problems.

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)
- lower abdominal (belly) pain

These side effects are usually mild to moderate and either wear off of their own accord or stop after treatment has ended.

Very rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)
- *Thrombocytopenia*- a reduction in the number of blood platelets. First signs may be increased gum bleeding, nosebleeds or bruising. Patients should consult their doctor if new bleeding occurs.
- *Stevens-Johnson syndrome*- a severe, sometimes life-threatening reaction of the skin and mucous membranes, accompanied by blistering. For this reason, tell your health care provider immediately if you experience lesions on the skin or mucous membranes (e.g., in the mouth).

These may require discontinuation of [NT017 trade name] and immediate treatment by your health care provider.

Side effects whose frequency cannot be estimated from available information)

- *Eye problems* such as corneal inflammation (keratitis), corneal disease (keratopathy) or inflammation of the sclera (acute scleritis). Contact your health care provider immediately if you notice any eye problems such as a foreign body sensation, redness, pain, sensitivity to light, blurred vision, or loss of transparency (scarring) in the clear layer at the front of the eye.
- *increased levels of bilirubin* (a pigment made by the liver) seen in blood tests

Tell your health care provider if any of the listed side effects gets serious or causes you severe problems, or if any side effect does not improve during the course of treatment.

Reporting of side effects

If you get a side effect, talk to your health care provider. This includes side effects not listed in this leaflet. You may also be able to report such effects directly to your national reporting system if one is available. By reporting side effects, you can help to improve the available information on this medicine.

5. How to store [NT017 trade name]

Do not store above 30°C. Protect from moisture.

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

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date stated on the blister label and carton after "EXP".The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not use this medicine if you notice description of the visible signs of deterioration that it is different from the description below.

Do not throw away any medicines in wastewater or household waste. Ask your health care provider 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 [NT017 trade name] contains

- The active ingredient is miltefosine
- The other ingredients of [NT017 trade name] are;

Capsule fill: Microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, colloidal silicon dioxide, talc, magnesium stearate
Capsule shell: Titanium dioxide, gelatin, sodium lauryl sulfate, FD&C blue #2/indigo carmine, iron oxide yellow, iron oxide red, iron oxide black.

There is too little sodium in this medicine to have any effect, even if you are on a low-sodium diet.

What [NT017 trade name] looks like and contents of the pack

[NT017 trade name] is a hard gelatin capsules with an opaque blue cap and opaque grey body. They are plain with no markings. They contain white to off-white granular powder. The capsules are to be swallowed whole.

[NT017 trade name] is provided in an aluminium on aluminium foil blister cards, each containing 10 capsules. Available in cartons of 10 x 10 capsules.

Supplier and Manufacturer

Supplier

Zydus Lifesciences Limited
"Zydus Corporate Park",
Scheme no. 63, survey no. 536,
Khoraj (Gandhinagar), Near. Vaishnodevi Circle,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat
India – 382481
E-mail; Drugsafety@zyduslife.com

Manufacturer

Zydus Lifesciences Limited
Kundaim Industrial Estate,
OSD Block – II, Plot No.203-213,
Kundaim, Goa-403 115, India
E-mail; Drugsafety@zyduslife.com

For any information about this medicine, contact the local representative of the supplier.

This leaflet was last revised in May 2024

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the World Health Organization (WHO) website: https://extranet.who.int/prequal/medicines/prequalified/finished-pharmaceutical-products