

What questions should I ask my doctor about choosing the MS treatment that's right for me?

Partnering with your doctor is essential to making the MS treatment choice that's right for you. The decision you'll make together about which therapy to take involves several considerations, like how effective or convenient your treatment choice will be.

Keep in mind that you want to choose the right treatment for you. Everyone is different. So it's really important that you be open with your doctor about your individual lifestyle, and that you feel comfortable expressing your particular concerns. Partnering with your doctor by communicating exactly what's on your mind is essential to getting the treatment that's right for you.

To help you get a productive conversation started, we've listed below a few examples of the kinds of questions you may want to ask your doctor. Once you read through these, it may trigger additional questions of your own.

Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Treating Your MS

How effective is this treatment?
What are the side effects of this treatment?
Does the duration of treatment affect how I respond to side effects?
Do I need to have my liver monitored periodically?
How much medication will I need, and how often will I need to take it?
If you suggest an injectable treatment, are there needle options I should know about (eg, shorter vs longer needles)?
Is an auto-injector an option?
What do I need to consider when storing the medicine?
How will my MS therapy interact with other drugs I'm taking?
Why do I need to keep taking my medication, even if I feel okay?
I'm nervous about having injections. What can I do to ease my anxiety?

Indication

EXTAVIA[®] (**interferon beta-1b**) is a prescription medicine used to reduce the number of relapses in people with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS). This includes people who have had their first symptoms of multiple sclerosis and have an MRI consistent with MS. **EXTAVIA** will not cure MS but may decrease the number of flare-ups of the disease.

Important Safety Information

Do not take EXTAVIA (interferon beta-1b) if you are allergic to interferon beta-1b, to another interferon beta, to human albumin, or to mannitol.

EXTAVIA can cause serious side effects, including:

Liver Problems Including Liver Failure. Symptoms of liver problems may include yellowing of your eyes, itchy skin, feeling very tired, flu-like symptoms, nausea or vomiting, bruising easily, or bleeding problems. Your healthcare provider will do blood tests to check for these problems while you take EXTAVIA.

Serious Allergic Reactions. Serious allergic reactions can happen quickly and may happen after your first dose of EXTAVIA or after you have taken EXTAVIA many times. Symptoms may include difficulty breathing or swallowing, swelling of the mouth or tongue, rash, itching, or skin bumps. Also tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had an allergic reaction to rubber or latex. The rubber cap of the diluent pre-filled syringe contains a natural rubber latex.

Depression or Suicidal Thoughts. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms, especially if they are new, worse, or worry you: thoughts about suicide or dying, new or worse depression (sinking feeling or sadness), new or worse anxiety (feeling uneasy, nervous, or fearful for no reason), trouble sleeping (insomnia), acting aggressive, being angry, or violent, acting on dangerous impulses, hallucinations, other unusual changes in behavior or mood.

Other possible serious side effects with EXTAVIA include:

Heart Problems. EXTAVIA may worsen heart problems including congestive heart failure. Symptoms of heart problems may include swollen ankles, shortness of breath, decreased ability to exercise, fast heartbeat, tightness in chest, increased need to urinate at night, not being able to lay flat in bed.

Injection Site Problems. Serious skin reactions can happen in some people, including areas of severe damage to skin and the tissue below the skin (necrosis). These reactions can happen anywhere you inject EXTAVIA. Symptoms of injection site problems may include swelling, redness, or pain at the injection site, fluid drainage from the injection site, breaks in your skin or blue-black skin discoloration. Change your injection site each time you inject EXTAVIA as it will lessen the chance of you having a serious skin reaction. Avoid injecting EXTAVIA into an area of the skin that is sore, reddened, infected, or has other problems.

Flu-like Symptoms. EXTAVIA can cause flu-like symptoms including fever, chills, tiredness, sweating, and muscle aches when you first start to use it. These symptoms may decrease over time. Taking medicines for fever and pain relief on the days you are using EXTAVIA may help decrease these symptoms.

Seizures. Some people have had seizures while taking EXTAVIA, including people who have never had seizures before. It is not known if the seizures were related to MS, to EXTAVIA, or to a combination of both. If you have a seizure after taking EXTAVIA call your healthcare provider right away.

Blood Problems. You may have a drop in the levels of infection-fighting white blood cells, red blood cells, or cells that help you form blood clots. If drops in levels are severe, they can lessen your ability to fight infections, make you feel tired or sluggish, or cause you to bruise or bleed easily.

Risk to Pregnancy:

EXTAVIA can harm your unborn baby. EXTAVIA may cause you to lose your baby (miscarry). If you become pregnant while taking EXTAVIA call your healthcare provider right away. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you should continue to take EXTAVIA.

Most Common Side Effects:

The most common side effects of EXTAVIA include low white blood cell count, increases in your liver enzymes, headache, increase in your muscle tension, pain, rash, problems sleeping, stomach pain, and weakness. These are not all the possible side effects of EXTAVIA.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take and your medical conditions.

Please see the full [Prescribing Information](#) and [Medication Guide](#) for additional information and talk to your healthcare provider.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
East Hanover, New Jersey 07936-1080

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