



Treatments for MS symptoms:

Fampyra[®] (fampridine)

There are therapies available for treating specific symptoms of MS that work without altering the course of the disease. This includes treatments for muscle problems such as stiffness and tremors, fatigue, neurological symptoms such as visual disturbances, incontinence and neuropsychological problems such as depression, anxiety or memory difficulties.

What is Fampyra[®] and how does it work?

Fampyra[®] is used in adult patients with MS to improve walking. It belongs to a group of medicines called potassium channel blockers. They work by stopping potassium leaving the nerve cells which have been damaged by MS. This medicine is thought to work by letting signals pass down the nerve more normally, allowing people to walk better. There is no information on the use of this medicine in those aged below 18¹.

How is Fampyra[®] administered?

The dose is one tablet taken in the morning and one tablet taken in the evening (12 hours apart) – it is important that the tablets are taken 12 hours apart. Each tablet should be swallowed whole with a drink of water. The tablets should not be divided, crushed, dissolved, sucked, or chewed as this may increase the risk of side-effects.

Before you take Fampyra[®]

Fampyra[®] is available only with a doctor's prescription. Before you start to take it, you should tell your doctor if you: have any allergies, problems with your kidneys, a history of seizure, fits or convulsions, sudden repeated attacks of facial nerve pain (trigeminal neuralgia), you are pregnant, or intend to become pregnant, you are breastfeeding or wish to breastfeed, are taking any other medicines including vitamins, herbal supplements or natural therapies.

While you are taking Fampyra[®]

How long to take it

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you. It is important to keep taking your medicine even if you feel well. Your doctor will assess whether Fampyra[®] is working for you with a walk test after an initial 8 weeks of treatment.

If you forget to take it

Do not double a dose to make up for the dose you have missed. You must always leave 12 hours between each tablet.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Australian Poisons Information Centre (phone: 13 11 26) for advice or go to your nearest hospital if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Fampyra[®], even if there are no signs of poisoning – you may need urgent medical attention.

Things you must do

- Tell any other doctors, dentists or pharmacists that treat that you are taking this medicine
 - If you are undergoing surgery, tell the surgeon and anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine
 - If you become pregnant, tell your doctor immediately
 - If you are about to have blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine
 - Do not stop taking your medicine or adjust the dose without checking with your doctor
 - Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how this medicine affects you
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What are the potential side effects of Fampyra® treatment?

Tell your doctor and pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while taking this medicine. Fampyra® helps many people with MS, but it may have side effects in some people.

These are the more common side effects of Fampyra® - you may not experience any of them. Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you: urinary tract infection, headache or feeling weak, difficulty sleeping, sore throat, feeling sick or being sick, constipation or upset stomach, back pain, dizziness or feeling unsteady, anxiety, numbness or tingling of the skin, tremor (minor shaking) and worsening of facial nerve pain in people with trigeminal neuralgia

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience a seizure, fit or convulsion – this is a serious side effect – you may need urgent medical attention.

If you have:

- Difficulty breathing (shortness of breath),
- Swelling of the face, mouth, lips, throat or tongue,
- Reddening or itching of the skin,

stop taking Fampyra®, tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest hospital - these are serious side effects – you may need urgent medical attention.

Other side effects may also occur in some patients – tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

How much does Fampyra® cost?

Fampyra® was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in 2011 and is available in Australia but it is not listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; the price at pharmacy level may vary.

General information

Some pharmacies do not keep Fampyra® in stock. Instead they will place an order with the manufacturer to have stock delivered especially for you. It is therefore important to let your pharmacist know a few days before you need the medication.

Fampyra® tablets should be kept in their container in a cool, dry place where they stay below 25 degrees C, as heat and dampness can destroy some medicines, and out of reach of young children.

Fampyra® is manufactured by:
Biogen Australia Pty Ltd
Level 3, 123 Epping Road
North Ryde, NSW 2113
Ph: 02 8875 3900

For more information on MS and other MS treatments

- Speak to your neurologist about what treatment best suits your individual circumstances.
 - MS Nurses can also provide information, training and ongoing support in managing your symptoms.
 - For information about MS, MS treatment and to find contact details for your state MS organization visit www.msaustralia.org.au
 - MS Research Australia provides information on the latest research and clinical trials at www.msra.org.au
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References

1. Fampyra® Approved Product Information, January 2016
<https://www.ebs.tga.gov.au/ebs/picmi/picmirepository.nsf/pdf?OpenAgent&id=CP-2011-PI-02685-3>
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Note:

MS Australia does not recommend any specific treatments for people living with MS. Decisions about treatments, taking into consideration the potential benefits and side effects for each individual's circumstances, should be made in careful consultation with the person's neurologist and other healthcare professionals.

The information supplied in this document is collated from material provided by the relevant pharmaceutical company, MIMS (<http://www.mims.com.au>) and MS Research Australia.