Treatments for MS: Aubagio® (Teriflunomide)

There are currently nine disease-modifying therapies approved for people with MS in Australia. These therapies, called immunotherapies, work to reduce disease activity in the central nervous system and reduce the frequency and severity of relapses in people with MS.

What is Aubagio (Teriflunomide) and how does it work?

Aubagio belongs to a class of medications called pyrimidine synthesis inhibitors. It is a film coated oral tablet taken once daily.

It acts by interrupting the lifecycle of certain types of white blood cells, called lymphocytes. In MS, these small lymphocyte cells play a role in destroying myelin, the protective sheath that surrounds nerve fibres and helps with the efficient flow of nerve signals or messages to and from the brain and various parts of the body.

Aubagio works by reducing the production of an enzyme (a type of protein) which lymphocytes, need to divide and mature. This lowers the number of lymphocytes circulating in the blood and reaching the central nervous system, which in turn reduces damage to the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

In Australia, teriflunomide is sold under the brand name Aubagio.

In clinical trials Aubagio has been shown to:
- reduce the frequency of relapses.
- delay progression of physical disability.

The treatment does have side effects. More common side effects include nausea, elevated liver enzymes, diarrhoea and hair thinning or loss. Less frequent effects include increased blood pressure and skin disorders. On rare occasions some people may develop liver or blood problems.

Based on animal studies Aubagio may cause birth defects if used during pregnancy. It should not be taken by pregnant women, or women of childbearing age who are not using effective birth control.

How is Aubagio (Teriflunomide) supplied?

Aubagio has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and entered in the Australia Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). It has also been approved for listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and will be available for purchase from December 1, 2013. Please discuss with your neurologist whether Aubagio (teriflunomide) is the right treatment for you.
For more information on this treatment or other MS treatments

- Speak to your neurologist about what treatment best suits your individual circumstances.
- For more information about teriflunomide visit: www.msra.org.au/tga-registers-teriflunomide
- Our MS Nurses also provide information, training and ongoing support in managing your immunotherapy. Contact your state office on 1800 042 138 or visit www.msaustralia.org.au for more information.
- MS Research Australia (MSRA) provides information on the latest research and clinical trials in MS. Visit www.msra.org.au for more information.
- Making Sense of MS Research provides plain language summaries of independent, high-quality research about MS treatments. Visit www.makingsenseofmsresearch.org.au
- MS One to One is a patient support program run by Genzyme, a Sanofi company, for people using Aubagio (call 1800 222 121 or speak to your neurologist or MS nurse for further information).
- In Australia, Aubagio ® is supplied by:

  **genzyme, a sanofi company**
  Building D
  12-24 Talavera Rd
  Macquarie Park
  NSW - 2113

---

For information about MS and MS Australia services:

Call MS Connect: 1800 042 138
Web: www.msaustralia.org.au

---

References


Disclaimer: Information contained in this fact sheet, prepared by Multiple Sclerosis Limited, is intended to provide useful and accurate information of a general nature for the reader but is not intended to be a substitute for legal or medical advice. Multiple Sclerosis Limited is not recommending medical or legal advice and readers must seek their own medical or legal advice as may be appropriate. Printing and photocopying this publication in its original form is permitted for educational purposes only. Reproduction in any other form without written permission is prohibited.