INTERFERON BETA 1B

CLASS: Interferon

INDICATIONS: Treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS); treatment of first clinical episode with MRI features consistent with MS

Canadian labeling: Additional use (not in U.S. labeling): Treatment of secondary-progressive MS

AVAILABLE DOSAGE FROM THE HOSPITAL:

INTERFERON BETA-1B 300MCG (9.6 MIL. UNIT)

INTERFERON BETA-1B 0.25MG /ML (8 MIL. UNIT)

TRADE NAMES:

DOSAGE:

- **Dosing: Adult**
  Note: Analgesics and/or antipyretics may help decrease flu-like symptoms on treatment days:
  Multiple sclerosis (relapsing) or treatment of first clinical episode with MRI features consistent with MS: SubQ: Initial: 0.0625 mg (0.25 mL) every other day; gradually increase dose by 0.0625 mg every 2 weeks
  Target dose: 0.25 mg (1 mL) every other day

  Note: In clinical trials involving patients with a single clinical event suggestive of MS, dose was initiated at 0.0625 mg (2 million units [0.25 mL]) every other day and titrated weekly up to a target dose of 8 million units (1 mL) every other day (Kappos, 2006).

  Multiple sclerosis (secondary-progressive) [Canadian labeling; not in U.S. labeling]: SubQ: Initial: 0.125 mg (4 million units [0.5 mL]) every other day for 2 weeks
  Target dose: 0.25 mg (1 mL) every other day

- **Dosing: Geriatric**
  Refer to adult dosing.

- **Dosing: Renal Impairment**

  No dosage adjustment provided in manufacturer's labeling.

- **Dosing: Hepatic Impairment**

No dosage adjustment provided in manufacturer's labeling. The Canadian labeling contraindicates use in decompensated liver disease.

COMMON SIDE EFFECT:

Note: Flu-like syndrome (including at least two of the following - headache, fever, chills, malaise, diaphoresis, and myalgia) are reported in the majority of patients (60%) and decrease over time (average duration ~1 week).

>10%:

Cardiovascular: Peripheral edema (15%), chest pain (11%)

Central nervous system: Headache (57%), fever (36%), pain (51%), chills (25%), dizziness (24%), insomnia (24%)

Dermatologic: Rash (24%), skin disorder (12%)

Endocrine & metabolic: Metrorrhagia (11%)

Gastrointestinal: Nausea (27%), diarrhea (19%), abdominal pain (19%), constipation (20%), dyspepsia (14%)

Genitourinary: Urinary urgency (13%)

Hematologic: Lymphopenia (88%), neutropenia (14%), leukopenia (14%)

Local: Injection site reaction (85%), inflammation (53%), pain (18%)

Neuromuscular & skeletal: Weakness (61%), myalgia (27%), hypertonia (50%), myasthenia (46%), arthralgia (31%), incoordination (21%)

Miscellaneous: Flu-like syndrome (decreases over treatment course; 60%), neutralizing antibodies (≤45%; significance not known)

PREGNANCY RISK FACTORS: C