

# Patient and Caregiver Guide

## Important things to remember about your **MAYZENT**<sup>®</sup>▼ (siponimod) treatment:

**If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.  
This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet.**

▼ This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. You can also report side effects directly via HPRC Pharmacovigilance, Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie) By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine. Adverse events should also be reported to Novartis Ireland by calling 01-2080 612 or by email to [drugsafety.dublin@novartis.com](mailto:drugsafety.dublin@novartis.com)

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## Introduction



This guide contains important information about MAYZENT® (siponimod) dosing, side effects and their potential risks, including guidance on pregnancy.



Before you start your treatment, read this guide and the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL), which is inside your MAYZENT® medication package, thoroughly. The PIL contains additional information on the potential side effects.



Save this guide together with the PIL in case you need to refer to it during treatment.

Use the medication schedule on page 13 when you start treatment with MAYZENT®.

**If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet.**

## What is MS (multiple sclerosis)



Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological disease that affects the brain and spinal cord.

In MS, the body's own immune cells mistakenly attack nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Over time, these nerve cells are lost, leading to increasing disability.



For some people, symptoms develop and worsen with time following a progressive pattern (progressive MS), but for others they come and go (relapsing-remitting MS).

Within ten years more than 50% of patients with relapsing-remitting MS eventually develop sustained disability with or without relapses. This is called secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS).

## What MAYZENT<sup>®</sup> is and how it works



MAYZENT<sup>®</sup> contains an active substance called siponimod, which is a sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) modulator.

It is used to treat adults with SPMS with active disease. Active disease in SPMS is when there are still relapses or when MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) results show signs of inflammation.

MAYZENT<sup>®</sup> works by stopping the body's own immune cells (white blood cells) from travelling into the brain and spinal cord and attacking nerve cells.



A large phase 3 trial found that MAYZENT<sup>®</sup> could slow down the effects of disease activity, such as worsening disability, brain lesions and relapses.

## Before you take MAYZENT®



### Testing and getting ready for treatment

Your doctor will perform a saliva test to determine how well MAYZENT® is broken down in your body before you start treatment in order to determine the best dose for you. In certain cases, the test will show that MAYZENT® is not the right treatment option for you.



A recent complete blood count (CBC), including white blood cell count, as well as liver function tests (LFTs) including recent transaminase and bilirubin levels are required before initiating treatment (i.e. within the last 6 months prior to therapy or after discontinuation). This test may be repeated again while you are on treatment should you have symptoms of hepatic dysfunction.

## Before you take MAYZENT®



Your doctor will perform a skin examination to check for any abnormal growth or change on your skin.

Talk to your doctor if you haven't had chickenpox or if you are not sure if you have had it. If you are not protected against this virus, you will need a vaccination before you start treatment with MAYZENT®. If this is the case, your doctor will delay the start of treatment with MAYZENT® until one month after the full course of vaccination is completed.



Tell your doctor if you have, or have previously had, visual disturbances or vision problems in the centre of the eye (macular oedema), inflammation or infection of the eye (uveitis), or if you have high blood sugar levels (diabetes). If you have a history of

## Before you take MAYZENT®



any of these conditions, your doctor may suggest you have an eye examination before you can start treatment with MAYZENT®.

If you have an underlying heart problem or are taking medication that can cause your heart rate to slow down, your doctor will take your blood pressure and do a test called an electrocardiogram (ECG) to check the rhythm of your heart before starting treatment with MAYZENT®. Your doctor may also refer you to a heart specialist (cardiologist) for advice on how you should start treatment with MAYZENT®, and how you should be monitored.

## Before you take MAYZENT®



### Other medication

Tell your doctor if you are taking immunosuppressive drugs or medication that can cause your heart rate to slow down.

You may have to change or temporarily stop your usual medication for a short period of time. This is because the effects of these medicines can be increased when used together with MAYZENT®.

MAYZENT® is not recommended if you have certain heart conditions or are taking other medicines known to decrease heart rate.

Please inform your doctor if you experience any of these conditions.

## The first time you take MAYZENT®



### Slow heart rate

At the beginning of treatment, MAYZENT® may cause the heart rate to slow down temporarily, which can make you feel dizzy or lightheaded. For most patients, the slow heart rate returns to normal within 10 days. You should not drive or use machines during the first day of treatment initiation with MAYZENT®, as you may feel dizzy. Inform your doctor immediately if you experience dizziness, vertigo, nausea, fatigue or palpitations after the first dose or during the first 6 days of treatment with MAYZENT®.

Where appropriate, your doctor will ask you to stay at the doctor's office for 6 hours or more after taking the first dose so that your blood pressure and pulse can be checked regularly and an

## The first time you take MAYZENT®



electrocardiogram (ECG) can be performed to check the rhythm of your heart. If your ECG shows any abnormalities during this time, you may need to be monitored for a longer period of time (possibly overnight) until these have resolved.

## Starting treatment with MAYZENT®



Your treatment will start with a five-day titration pack. Your treatment starts with a dose of 0.25 mg on Days 1 and 2, followed by 0.5 mg on Day 3 (two tablets), 0.75 mg on Day 4 (three tablets) and 1.25 mg on Day 5 (five tablets), to reach the recommended treatment dose (either 2 mg or 1 mg depending on the results of your saliva test performed before the start of treatment) from Day 6 onward.

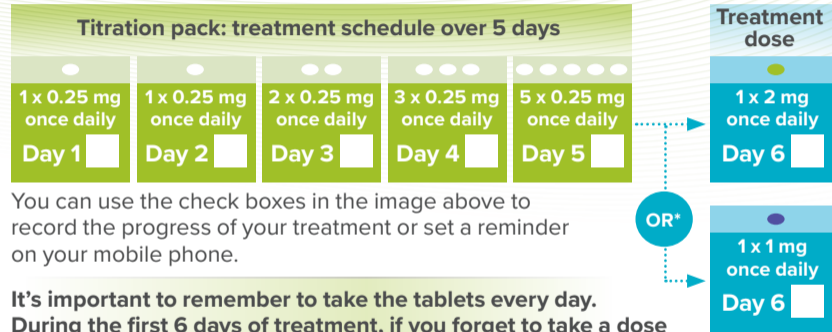


Gradually increasing the dose of MAYZENT® over a period of 5 days helps to reduce the effect on your heart at the beginning of your treatment.



Take your MAYZENT® tablets once a day. Ideally, this should be at the same time each day, such as in the morning, and with or without food.

## MAYZENT® medication schedule



You can use the check boxes in the image above to record the progress of your treatment or set a reminder on your mobile phone.

**It's important to remember to take the tablets every day. During the first 6 days of treatment, if you forget to take a dose on one day, call your doctor immediately because treatment needs to be reinitiated again with a new titration pack.**

*\*(Treatment dose depends on the results of your maintenance dose test performed before the start of treatment)*

## During treatment with MAYZENT®



### Blood tests

Once you have started treatment with MAYZENT®, you will have regular blood tests to measure your blood cell count. It is recommended that these are carried out every 3–4 months for the first year, and then once a year after that.

Your doctor will also perform additional blood tests if there is any suspicion of an infection.

## Side effects and important risks:



### Visual symptoms

MAYZENT® may cause swelling at the back of the eye. This condition is known as macular oedema, and is reversible if caught early.

Possible symptoms may include:

- Blurry or wavy vision in the centre of the eye
- Vision loss
- Colours appearing faded or changed
- Your doctor may request an eye examination before you start treatment with MAYZENT® and during treatment.



**Tell your doctor immediately about any changes in your vision during and up to 4 weeks after treatment with MAYZENT®.**



## Side effects and important risks:



### Infections

Because MAYZENT® affects the immune system, you may be more vulnerable to infections. If you have any of the following symptoms during treatment, and up to one month after stopping treatment, let your doctor know straight away.

Possible symptoms of a serious fungal or viral infection (e.g meningitis and/or encephalitis) are:

- Headache accompanied by a stiff neck
- Flu-like symptoms
- Rash
- Confusion
- Sensitivity to light
- Fever
- Nausea
- Shingles
- Seizures (fits)

*continued overleaf*

## Side effects and important risks:

If you experience any weakness, changes in vision or develop new/worsening symptoms of MS, talk to your doctor as soon as possible. These may be due to a very rare brain infection called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) which can occur in patients taking medicines like MAYZENT® and other medicines used for treating MS.



### Liver function

MAYZENT® can cause abnormal results in liver function tests. Contact your doctor if you notice symptoms such as:

- Unexplained nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Fatigue
- Rash
- Yellowing of the eyes or the skin
- Dark urine

If you experience any of these symptoms your doctor will repeat the blood tests undertaken prior to starting MAYZENT®.

**These symptoms could be signs of liver problems and you should contact your doctor.**



## Side effects and important risks:



### Malignancies

Whilst you are treated with MAYZENT®, there is an increased risk of skin malignancies

You should limit your exposure to the sun and UV rays by: wearing appropriate protective clothing and regularly applying sunscreen with a high degree of UV protection.

You should not receive phototherapy with UV-B radiation or PUVA-photochemotherapy (treatments used for some skin conditions) whilst you are being treated with MAYZENT®.

Inform your doctor immediately if you notice any skin nodules (e.g. shiny, pearly nodules), patches or open sores that do not heal within weeks. Symptoms of skin cancer may include abnormal growth or changes of skin tissue (e.g. unusual moles) with a change in colour, shape or size over time.

Your doctor will carry out regular skin examinations as you start treatment, and thereafter while on treatment with MAYZENT®.

## Side effects and important risks:



### Neurological and psychiatric symptoms

Tell your doctor immediately if you have neurological or psychiatric symptoms (such as sudden onset of severe headache, confusion, seizures and vision changes). These may be symptoms of a condition called posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES).

## Female patients



You must avoid becoming pregnant while taking MAYZENT® because there is a risk of harm to the unborn baby.

If you get pregnant during treatment, or within 10 days following discontinuation of treatment with MAYZENT®, let your doctor know immediately.

Women of childbearing potential should:

- Be using effective contraception during treatment and for at least 10 days after stopping treatment to avoid pregnancy due to the potential risk of harm to the unborn baby;
- Have a negative pregnancy test before starting treatment with MAYZENT®, which should be repeated at suitable intervals;
- Be informed before treatment initiation and regularly thereafter by their physician about MAYZENT®'s serious risks to the foetus.



Women receiving MAYZENT® should not breastfeed because of the potential side effects for infants.

If you are a female of childbearing potential, you should also receive the Pregnancy Reminder Card.



Please see the  
“Patient Information Leaflet”  
for more information.

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