COPAXONE (glatiramer acetate injection) for subcutaneous use

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

COPAXONE (glatiramer acetate injection) is indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsing-forms of multiple sclerosis (1).

**Dosage and Administration**

- **Recommended Dose**: For subcutaneous injection only; doses are not interchangeable (2.1).
- **Injection**: 20 mg/mL in a single-dose prefilled syringe with a white plunger (3).
- **Injection**: 40 mg/mL in a single-dose, prefilled syringe with a blue plunger (3).

**Contraindications**

- Known hypersensitivity to glatiramer acetate or mannitol (4).

**Warnings and Precautions**

- Immediate Post-Injection Reaction (flushing, chest pain, palpitations, tachycardia, anxiety, dyspnea, throat constriction, and/or urticaria), may occur within seconds to minutes after injection and are generally transient and self-limiting (5.1).
- Chest pain, usually transient (5.2).
- Lipoatrophy and skin necrosis may occur. Instruct patients in proper injection technique and to rotate injection sites (5.3).

**Adverse Reactions**

- In controlled studies of COPAXONE 20 mg/mL, most common adverse reactions (≥10% and ≥1.5 times higher than placebo) were: injection site reactions, vasodilatation, rash, dyspnea, and chest pain (6.1).
- In a controlled study of COPAXONE 40 mg/mL, most common adverse reactions (≥10% and ≥1.5 times higher than placebo) were: injection site reactions, vasodilatation, rash, and chest pain (6.1).

**Postmarketing Experience**

- Nursing Mothers: It is not known if COPAXONE is excreted in human milk (8.3).
- Pediatric Use: The safety and effectiveness of COPAXONE have not been established in patients under 18 years of age (8.4).

**Full Prescribing Information**

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling.

**Recent Major Changes**

- Warnings and Precautions, Immediate Post-Injection Reaction (5.1) 9/2018

**Full Prescribing Information: Contents**

1 **Indications and Usage**
2 **Dosage and Administration**
   2.1 Recommended Dose
   2.2 Instructions for Use
3 **Dosage Forms and Strengths**
4 **Contraindications**
5 **Warnings and Precautions**
   5.1 Immediate Post-Injection Reaction
   5.2 Chest Pain
   5.3 Lipoatrophy and Skin Necrosis
   5.4 Potential Effects on Immune Response
6 **Adverse Reactions**
   6.1 Clinical Trials Experience
   6.2 Postmarketing Experience
7 **Drug Interactions**

**.use in Specific Populations**

- 8.1 Pregnancy
- 8.2 Labor and Delivery
- 8.3 Nursing Mothers
- 8.4 Pediatric Use
- 8.5 Geriatric Use
- 8.6 Use in Patients with Impaired Renal Function

**Description**

- 12.1 Mechanism of Action
- 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

**Nonclinical Toxicology**

- 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

**Clinical Studies**

- 14.1 Clinical Trials
- 14.2 Comparison to Placebo-Controlled Trials
- 14.3 Comparison to Open Trials
- 14.4 Comparison to Other Agents

**How Supplied/Storage and Handling**

- 16.1 Description
- 16.2 Storage
- 16.3 Handling

**Patient Counseling Information**

- 17.1 Information for Patients
- 17.2 Information for Healthcare Professionals

**References**

Revised: 9/2018
Although COPAXONE® is intended to minimize the autoimmune response to myelin, there is the possibility that continued alteration of cellular immunity due to chronic treatment with COPAXONE may result in untoward effects. Glatiramer acetate-reactive antibodies are formed in most patients receiving glatiramer acetate. Studies in both the rat and monkey have suggested that immune complexes are deposited in the renal glomeruli. Furthermore, in a controlled trial of 125 RRMS patients given COPAXONE 20 mg per mL, subcutaneously every day for 2 years, serum IgG levels reached at least 3 times baseline values in 80% of patients by 3 months of initiation of treatment. By 12 months of treatment, however, 30% of patients still had IgG levels at least 3 times baseline values, and 90% had levels above baseline by 12 months. The antibodies are exclusively of the IgG subtype and predominantly of the IgG-1 subtype. No IgE type antibodies could be detected in any of the 94 sera tested; nevertheless, anaphylaxis can be associated with the administration of most any foreign substance, and therefore, this risk cannot be excluded.

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following serious adverse reactions are described elsewhere in the labeling:

- Immediate Post-Injection Reaction [see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]
- Chest Pain [see Warnings and Precautions (5.2)]
- Lipohypertrophy and Skin Necrosis [see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)]
- Potential Effects on Immune Response [see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)]

### 6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

#### Incidence in Controlled Clinical Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>COPAXONE 20 mg per mL (n=563)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=564)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Disorders And Administration Site Conditions</td>
<td>Injection Site Fibrosis 2%</td>
<td>Injection Site Atrophy* 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immune System Disorders</td>
<td>Hypersensitivity 3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infections And Infestations</td>
<td>Infection 30%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory, Thoracic And Mediastinal Disorders</td>
<td>Urinary 14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous System Disorders</td>
<td>Anxiety 13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin And Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders</td>
<td>Rash 19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular Disorders</td>
<td>Vasodilatation 20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> *Injection site atrophy comprises terms relating to localized lipoatrophy at injection site.*

### Incidence in Open And Uncontrolled Premarketing Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>COPAXONE 20 mg/mL (n=979)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=564)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Disorders And Administration Site Conditions</td>
<td>Injection Site Fibrosis 2%</td>
<td>Injection Site Atrophy* 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immune System Disorders</td>
<td>Hypersensitivity 3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infections And Infestations</td>
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<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular Disorders</td>
<td>Vasodilatation 20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> *Injection site atrophy comprises terms relating to localized lipoatrophy at injection site.*

Adverse reactions which occurred only in 4 to 5 more subjects in the COPAXONE group than in the placebo group (less than 1% difference), but for which a relationship to COPAXONE could not be excluded, were arthralgia and herpes simplex. Laboratory analyses were performed on all patients treated in the clinical trials. In controlled trials one patient discontinued treatment due to thrombocytopenia (16 x109/L), which resolved after discontinuation of treatment. Data on adverse reactions occurring in the open and uncontrolled clinical trials of COPAXONE 20 mg per mL were analyzed to evaluate differences based on sex. No clinically-significant differences were identified.

### Other Adverse Reactions

In the paragraphs that follow, the frequencies of less commonly reported adverse clinical reactions are presented. Because the reports include reactions observed in open and uncontrolled premarking studies (n=979), the role of COPAXONE in their causation cannot be reliably determined. Furthermore, variability associated with adverse reaction reporting, the terminology used to describe adverse reactions, etc., limit the value of the quantitative frequency estimates provided. Reaction frequencies are calculated as the number of patients who used COPAXONE and reported a reaction divided by the total number of patients exposed to COPAXONE. All reported reactions are included except those already listed in the previous table, those too general to be classified within body system categories and enumerated in order of decreasing frequency using the following definitions: **Frequent** adverse reactions are defined as those occurring in at least 1/100 patients and **infrequent** adverse reactions are those occurring in 1/100 to 1/1,000 patients.
COPAXONE® (glatiramer acetate injection)

Body as a Whole:
- Frequent: Abcess
- Infrequent: Injection site hematomata, moon face, cellulitis, hernia, injection site abscess, serum sickness, suicide attempt, injection site hypertrophy, injection site melanosis, lipoma, and photosensitivity reaction.

Cardiovascular:
- Frequent: Hypertension.

Digestive:
- Frequent: Dry mouth, stomatitis, burning sensation on tongue, cholecystitis, colitis, esophageal ulcer, esophageal gastritis, gastrointestinal carcinoma, gum hemorrhage, hepatomegaly, increased appetite, melena, mouth ulceration, pancreas disorder, pancreatitis, rectal hemorrhage, tenesmus, tongue discoloration, and duodenal ulcer.

Endocrine:
- Frequent: Goiter, hyperthyroidism, and hypothyroidism.

Gastrointestinal:
- Frequent: Bowel urgency, oral moniliasis, salivary gland enlargement, tooth caries, and ulcerative stomatitis.

Hemic and Lymphatic:
- Frequent: Leukopenia, anemia, cyanosis, eosinophilia, hematemesis, lymphedema, pancycopenia, and splenomegaly.

Metabolic and Nutritional:
- Frequent: Weight loss, alcohol intolerance, Cushing’s syndrome, gout, abnormal healing, and xanthoma.

Musculoskeletal:
- Frequent: Arthritis, muscle atrophy, bone pain, bursitis, kidney pain, muscle disorder, myopathy, osteomyelitis, tendon pain, and tenosynovitis.

Nervous:
- Frequent: Abnormal dreams, emotional lability, and stupor.

Respiratory:
- Frequent: Hyperventilation and hay fever.

Skin and Appendages:
- Frequent: Eczema, herpes zoster, purpuric rash, skin atrophy, and warts.

Special Senses:
- Frequent: Dry skin, skin hypertrophy, dermatitis, furunculosis, psoriasis, papular rash, pigmentation, benign skin neoplasm, skin carcinoma, skin striae, and vesiculobullous rash.

Urogenital System:
- Frequent: Leukorrhea, anemia, cyanosis, eosinophilia, hematemesis, lymphedema, pancycopenia, and splenomegaly.

Table 2: Adverse reactions in a controlled clinical trial with an incidence ≥2% of patients and more frequent with COPAXONE (40 mg per mL three times per week) than with placebo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>COPAXONE 40 mg/mL</th>
<th>Placebo (n=461)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injection Site Erythema</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection Site Pain</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection Site Mass</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection Site Pruritus</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection Site Edema</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrexia</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza-like Illness</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection Site Inflammation</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest Pain</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Tract Infection</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasodilation</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythema</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No new adverse reactions appeared in subjects treated with COPAXONE 40 mg per mL three times per week as compared to subjects treated with COPAXONE 20 mg per mL per day in clinical trials and during postmarketing experience. Data on adverse reactions occurring in the controlled clinical trial of COPAXONE 40 mg per mL were analyzed to evaluate differences based on sex. No clinically significant differences were identified. Ninety-eight percent of patients in this clinical trial were Caucasian and the majority were between the ages of 18 and 50. Consequently, data are inadequate to perform an analysis of the adverse reaction incidence related to clinically-relevant age groups.

6.2 Postmarketing Experience
The following adverse reactions have been identified during postapproval use of COPAXONE. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS
8.1 Pregnancy
Pregnancy Category B.
Administration of glatiramer acetate by subcutaneous injection to pregnant rats and rabbits resulted in no adverse effects on offspring development. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, COPAXONE should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

In rats or rabbits receiving glatiramer acetate by subcutaneous injection during the period of organogenesis, no adverse effects on embryo-fetal development were observed at doses up to 37.5 mg/kg/day (18 and 36 times, respectively, the therapeutic human dose of 20 mg/day on a mg/m2 basis). In rats receiving subcutaneous glatiramer acetate at
doses of up to 36 mg/kg from day 15 of pregnancy throughout lactation, no significant effects on delivery or on offspring growth and development were observed.

8.2 Labor and Delivery
The effects of COPAXONE on labor and delivery in pregnant women are unknown.

8.3 Nursing Mothers
It is not known if glatiramer acetate is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when COPAXONE is administered to a nursing woman.

8.4 Pediatric Use
The safety and effectiveness of COPAXONE have not been established in patients under 18 years of age.

8.5 Geriatric Use
COPAXONE has not been studied in elderly patients.

8.6 Use in Patients with Impaired Renal Function
The pharmacokinetics of glatiramer acetate in patients with impaired renal function have not been determined.

11 DESCRIPTION
Glatiramer acetate, the active ingredient of COPAXONE, consists of the acetate salts of synthetic polypeptides, containing four naturally occurring amino acids: L-glutamic acid, L-alanine, L-tyrosine, and L-lysine with an average molar fraction of 0.141, 0.427, 0.095, and 0.338, respectively. The average molecular weight of glatiramer acetate is 5,000–9,000 daltons. Glatiramer acetate is identified by specific antibodies. Chemicals related to glatiramer acetate are deuterated L-glutamic acid and are no evidence that glatiramer acetate is altered by its block the induction of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) in mice.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY
12.1 Mechanism of Action
The mechanism(s) by which glatiramer acetate exerts its effects in patients with MS are not fully understood. However, glatiramer acetate is thought to act by modifying immune processes that are believed to be responsible for the pathogenesis of MS. This hypothesis is supported by findings of studies that have been carried out to explore the pathogenesis of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis, a condition induced in animals through immunization against central nervous system derived material containing myelin and often used as an experimental animal model of MS. Studies in animals and in vitro systems suggest that upon its administration, glatiramer acetate-specific suppressor T-cells are induced and activated in the periphery. Because glatiramer acetate can modify immune functions, concerns exist about its potential to alter naturally occurring immune responses. There is no evidence that glatiramer acetate does this, but this has not been systematically evaluated [see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)].

12.2 Pharmacokinetics
Results obtained in pharmacokinetic studies performed in humans (healthy volunteers) and animals suggest that a substantial fraction of the therapeutic dose delivered to patients subcutaneously is hydrolyzed locally. Larger fragments of glatiramer acetate can be recognized by glatiramer acetate-reactive antibodies. Some fraction of the injected material, either intact or partially hydrolyzed, is presumed to enter the lymphatic circulation, enabling it to reach regional lymph nodes, and some may enter the systemic circulation intact.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY
13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility
In a 2-year carcinogenicity study, mice were administered up to 60 mg/kg/day glatiramer acetate by subcutaneous injection (up to 15 times the human therapeutic dose of 20 mg/day on a mg/m² basis). No increase in systemic neoplasms was observed. In males receiving the 60-mg/kg/day dose, there was an increased incidence of fibrosarcomas at the injection sites. These sarcomas were associated with skin damage precipitated by repetitive injections of an irritant over a limited skin area. In a 2-year carcinogenicity study, rats were administered up to 30 mg/kg/day glatiramer acetate by subcutaneous injection (up to 15 times the human therapeutic dose on a mg/m² basis). No increase in neoplasms was observed.

Glatiramer acetate was not mutagenic in in vitro (Ames test, mouse lymphoma tk) assays. Glatiramer acetate was clastogenic in two separate in vitro chromosomal aberration assays in cultured human lymphocytes but not clastogenic in an in vivo mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay.

When glatiramer acetate was administered by subcutaneous injection prior to and during mating (males and females) and throughout gestation and lactation (females) at doses up to 36 mg/kg/day (18 times the human therapeutic dose on a mg/m² basis) no adverse effects were observed on reproductive or developmental parameters.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES
Evidence supporting the effectiveness of COPAXONE derives from five placebo-controlled trials, four of a COPAXONE dose of 20 mg per mL per day and one of which used a COPAXONE dose of 40 mg per mL three times per week.

Study 1 was performed at a single center. Fifty patients were enrolled and randomized to receive daily doses of either COPAXONE, 20 mg per mL subcutaneously, or placebo (COPAXONE: n=25; placebo: n=25). Patients were diagnosed with RRMS by standard criteria, and had had at least 2 exacerbations during the previous 2 years immediately preceding enrollment. Patients were ambulatory, as evidenced by a score of no more than 6 on the Kurtzke Disability Status Scale on a standard scale ranging from 0–Normal to 10–Death due to MS. A score of 6 is defined as one at which a patient is still ambulatory with assistance; a score of 7 means the patient must use a chair. Patients were examined every 3 months for 2 years, as well as within several days of a presumed exacerbation. To confirm an exacerbation, a blinded neurologist had to document objective neurologic signs, as well as document the existence of other criteria (e.g., the persistence of the neurologic signs for at least 48 hours). The primary outcome measure was the proportion of patients in each treatment group who remained exacerbation-free for the 2 years of the trial, but two other important outcomes were also specified as endpoints: the frequency of attacks during the trial, and the change in the number of attacks compared with the number which occurred during the previous 2 years. Table 3 presents the values of the three outcomes described above, as well as several protocol-specified secondary outcomes. These values are based on the intent-to-treat population (i.e., all patients who received at least 1 dose of treatment and who had at least 1 on-treatment assessment):

| Table: Study 1 Efficacy Results |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| COPAXONE 20 mg/mL (n=25) | Placebo (n=25) | P-Value |
| % Relapse-Free Patients | 14/25 (56%) | 7/25 (28%) | 0.085 |
| Median Time to First Relapse (days) | 700 | 150 | 0.03 |
| % of Progression-Free* Patients | 20/25 (80%) | 13/25 (52%) | 0.07 |
| Mean No. of Relapses | 1.19/2 years | 1.68/2 years | 0.023 |
| Median Time to First Relapse (days) | 287 | 198 | 0.23 |
| % of Progression-Free Patients | 98/125 (78%) | 95/125 (75%) | 0.48 |
| Mean Change in DSS | -0.05 | -0.21 | 0.023 |

In both studies, COPAXONE exhibited a clear beneficial effect on relapse rate, and it is based on this evidence that COPAXONE is considered effective.

In Study 3, 481 patients who had recently (within 90 days) experienced an isolated demyelinating event and who had lesions typical of multiple sclerosis on brain MRI were randomized to receive either COPAXONE 20 mg per mL (n=243) or placebo (n=238). The primary outcome measure was time to development of a second exacerbation. Patients were followed for up to three years or until they reached the primary endpoint. Secondary outcomes were brain MRI measures, including number of new T2 lesions and T2 lesion volume. Time to development of a second exacerbation was significantly delayed in both groups. Study 2 was a multicenter trial of similar design which was performed in 11 US centers. A total of 251 patients (COPAXONE: n=125; placebo: n=126) were enrolled. The primary outcome measure was the Mean 2-Year Relapse Rate. Table 4 presents the values of this outcome for the intent-to-treat population, as well as several secondary measures:

| Table: Study 2 Efficacy Results |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| COPAXONE 20 mg/mL (n=125) | Placebo (n=126) | P-Value |
| % Relapse-Free Patients | 42/125 (34%) | 34/126 (27%) | 0.25 |
| Median Time to First Relapse (days) | 287 | 198 | 0.23 |
| % of Progression-Free Patients | 98/125 (78%) | 95/125 (75%) | 0.48 |
| Mean Change in DSS | -0.05 | -0.21 | 0.023 |

In both studies, COPAXONE exhibited a clear beneficial effect on relapse rate, and it is based on this evidence that COPAXONE is considered effective.
Patients treated with COPAXONE demonstrated fewer new T2 lesions at the last observation (rate ratio 0.41; confidence interval 0.28 to 0.59; p < 0.0001). Additionally, baseline-adjusted T2 lesion volume at the last observation was lower for patients treated with COPAXONE (ratio of 0.89; confidence interval 0.84 to 0.94; p = 0.0011). Study 4 was a multinational study in which MRI parameters were used both as primary and secondary endpoints. A total of 239 patients with RRMS (COPAXONE: n = 119; and placebo: n = 120) were randomized. Inclusion criteria were similar to those in the second study with the additional criterion that patients had to have at least one Gd-enhancing lesion on the screening MRI. The patients were treated in a double-blind manner for nine months, during which they underwent monthly MRI scanning. The primary endpoint for the double-blind phase was the total cumulative number of T1 Gd-enhancing lesions over the nine months. Table 5 summarizes the results for the primary outcome measure monitored during the trial for the intent-to-treat cohort.

### Table 5: Study 4 MRI Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>COPAXONE 20 mg/mL (n=119)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=120)</th>
<th>P-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medians of the Cumulative Number of T1 Gd-Enhancing Lesions</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.0030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 displays the results of the primary outcome on a monthly basis.

### Figure 2: Median Cumulative Number of Gd-Enhancing Lesions

COPAXONE 40 mg per mL three times per week

Study 5 was a double-blind, placebo-controlled, multinational study with a total of 1404 patients with RRMS randomized in a 2:1 ratio to receive either COPAXONE 40 mg per mL (n=943) or placebo (n=461) three times a week for 12 months. Patients had a median of 2 relapses in the 2 years prior to screening and had not received any interferon-beta for at least 2 months prior to screening. Baseline EDSS scores ranged from 0 to 5.5 with a median of 2.5. Neurological evaluations were performed at baseline, every three months, and at unscheduled visits for suspected relapse or early termination. MRI was performed at baseline, months 6 and 12, or early termination. A total of 91% of those assigned to COPAXONE and 93% of those assigned to placebo completed treatment at 12 months.

The primary outcome measure was the total number of confirmed relapses (persistence of neurological symptoms for at least 48 hours confirmed on examination with objective signs). The effect of COPAXONE on several magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) variables, including number of new or enlarging T2 lesions and number of enhancing lesions on T1-weighted images, was also measured at months 6 and 12. Table 6 presents the results for the intent-to-treat population.

### Table 6: Study 5 Efficacy and MRI Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>COPAXONE 40 mg/mL (n=943)</th>
<th>Placebo (n=461)</th>
<th>P-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Endpoints</td>
<td>Adjusted Mean Estimates</td>
<td>Relative risk reduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPAXONE</td>
<td>0.331</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placebo</td>
<td>0.505</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MRI Endpoints</th>
<th>P-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COPAXONE</td>
<td>Cumulative number of new or enlarging T2 lesions at Months 6 and 12</td>
<td>1.639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placebo</td>
<td>3.650</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16 **HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING**

COPAXONE (glatiramer acetate injection) is a clear, colorless to slightly yellow, sterile, nonpyrogenic solution supplied as:

- 20 mg per mL in a single-dose, prefilled syringe with a blue plunger, in individual blister packages supplied in 30-count cartons (NDC 68546-317-30).
- 40 mg per mL in a single-dose, prefilled syringe with a blue plunger, in individual blister packages supplied in 12-count cartons (NDC 68546-325-12).

Store COPAXONE refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F). If needed, the patient may store COPAXONE at room temperature, 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F), for up to one month, but refrigeration is preferred. Avoid exposure to higher temperatures or intense light. Do not freeze COPAXONE. If a COPAXONE syringe freezes, it should be discarded.

17 **PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION**

Advising the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Patient Information and Instructions for Use).

**Immediate Post-Injection Reaction**

Advising patients that COPAXONE may cause various symptoms after injection, including flushing, chest pain, palpitations, tachycardia, anxiety, dyspnea, constriction of the throat, and urticaria. These symptoms occur within seconds to minutes after injection and are generally transient and self-limited and do not require specific treatment. Inform patients that these symptoms may occur early or may have their onset several months after the initiation of treatment. A patient may experience one or several episodes of these symptoms.

**Chest Pain**

Advising patients that they may experience transient chest pain either as part of the Immediate Post-Injection Reaction or in isolation. Inform patients that the pain should be transient. Some patients may experience more than one such episode, usually beginning at least one month after the initiation of treatment. Patients should be advised to seek medical attention if they experience chest pain of unusual duration or intensity.

**Lipoatrophy and Skin Necrosis at Injection Site**

Advising patients that localized lipoatrophy, and rarely, skin necrosis may occur at injection sites. Instruct patients to follow proper injection technique and to rotate injection areas and sites with each injection to minimize these risks.

**Pregnancy**

Instruct patients that if they are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while taking COPAXONE they should inform their physician.

**Instructions for Use**

Instruct patients to read the COPAXONE Patient Information leaflet carefully. COPAXONE 20 mg per mL and COPAXONE 40 mg per mL are not interchangeable. COPAXONE 20 mg per mL is administered daily and COPAXONE 40 mg per mL is administered three times per week. Caution patients to use aseptic technique. The first injection should be performed under the supervision of a health care professional. Instruct patients to rotate injection areas and sites with each injection. Caution patients against the reuse of needles or syringes. Instruct patients in safe disposal procedures.

**Storage Conditions**

Advising patients that the recommended storage condition for COPAXONE is refrigeration at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). If needed, the patient may store COPAXONE at room temperature, 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C), for up to one month, but refrigeration is preferred. COPAXONE should not be exposed to higher temperatures or intense light. Do not freeze COPAXONE.

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COP-003
COPAXONE® (glatiramer acetate injection)

Patient Information
COPAXONE (co-PAX-own) (glatiramer acetate injection) for subcutaneous use

Read this Patient Information before you start using COPAXONE and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is COPAXONE?
COPAXONE is prescription medicine used for the treatment of people with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS).

It is not known if COPAXONE is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

Who should not use COPAXONE?
- Do not use COPAXONE if you are allergic to glatiramer acetate, mannitol or any of the ingredients in COPAXONE. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of the ingredients in COPAXONE.

What should I tell my doctor before using COPAXONE?
Before you use COPAXONE, tell your doctor if you:
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. COPAXONE may harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if COPAXONE passes into your breast milk. Talk to your doctor about the best way to feed your baby while using COPAXONE.
- use other medicines. Other medicines may affect how COPAXONE works.
- have a skin problem at your injection site including:
  - redness to your cheeks or other parts of the body (flushing)
  - swelling
  - itching
  - lumps
- are allergic to mannitol or any of the ingredients in COPAXONE.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. COPAXONE may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COPAXONE works.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I use COPAXONE?
- For detailed instructions, see the Instructions for Use at the end of this leaflet for complete information on how to use COPAXONE.
- Your doctor will tell you how much COPAXONE to use and when to use it.
- COPAXONE is given by injection under your skin (subcutaneously).
- Use COPAXONE exactly as your doctor tells you to use it.
- Since every body type is different, talk with your doctor about the injection areas that are best for you.
- You should receive your first dose of COPAXONE with a doctor or nurse present. This might be at your doctor's office or with a visiting home health nurse who will teach you how to give your COPAXONE injections.

What are the possible side effects of COPAXONE?
COPAXONE may cause serious side effects, including:
- Immediate Post-Injection Reactions. Serious side effects may happen right after or within minutes after you inject COPAXONE at any time during your course of treatment. Call your doctor right away if you have any of these immediate post-injection reaction symptoms including:
  - redness to your cheeks or other parts of the body (flushing)
  - chest pain
  - fast heart beat
  - anxiety
  - breathing problems or tightness in your throat
  - swelling, rash, hives, or itching
- Chest Pain. You can have chest pain as part of an immediate post-injection reaction or by itself. This type of chest pain usually lasts a few minutes and can begin around 1 month after you start using COPAXONE. Call your doctor right away if you have chest pain while using COPAXONE.
- Damage to your skin. Damage to the fatty tissue just under your skin's surface (lipatrophy) and, rarely, death of your skin tissue (necrosis) can happen when you use COPAXONE. Damage to the fatty tissue under your skin can cause a "dent" at the injection site that may not go away. You can reduce your chance of developing these problems by:
  - following your doctor's instructions for how to use COPAXONE
  - choosing a different injection area each time you use COPAXONE. See Step 4 in the Instructions for Use, "Choose your injection area".

The most common side effects of COPAXONE include:
- skin problems at your injection site including:
  - redness
  - pain
  - swelling
  - itching
  - lumps
- rash
- shortness of breath
- flushing (vasodilation)

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.
These are not all the possible side effects of COPAXONE. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How should I store COPAXONE?
- Store COPAXONE in the refrigerator between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C).
- When you are not able to refrigerate COPAXONE, you may store it for up to 1 month at room temperature between 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C).
- Protect COPAXONE from light or high temperature.

Keep COPAXONE and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the safe and effective use of COPAXONE.
Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. Do not use COPAXONE for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give COPAXONE to other people, even if they have the same symptoms as you have. It may harm them.

This Patient Information Leaflet summarizes the most important information about COPAXONE. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about COPAXONE that is written for health professionals.

For more information, go to www.copaxone.com or call 1-800-887-8100.

What are the ingredients in COPAXONE?
Active ingredient: glatiramer acetate
Inactive ingredients: mannitol

COPPL-003
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COPAXONE® (glatiramer acetate injection)

Instructions for Use
COPAXONE (co-PAX-own)
(glatiramer acetate injection)
for subcutaneous use

For subcutaneous injection only.
Do not inject COPAXONE in your veins (intravenously).
Do not re-use your COPAXONE prefilled syringes.
Do not share your COPAXONE prefilled syringes with another person.
You may give another person an infection or get an infection from them.
You should receive your first dose of COPAXONE with a doctor or nurse present. This might be at your doctor’s office or with a visiting home health nurse who will show you how to give your own injections.
COPAXONE comes in either a 20 mg Prefilled Syringe with needle attached or a 40 mg Prefilled Syringe with needle attached. How often a dose is given depends on the product strength that is prescribed. Your doctor will prescribe the correct dose for you.

Instructions for Using Your COPAXONE 20 mg Prefilled Syringe:
• COPAXONE 20 mg is injected 1 time each day, in the fatty layer under your skin (subcutaneously).
• Each COPAXONE 20 mg prefilled syringe is for single use (1 time use) only.
• The COPAXONE 20 mg dose is packaged in boxes of 30 prefilled syringes with needles attached. COPAXONE 20 mg prefilled syringes have white plungers.

Instructions for Using Your COPAXONE 40 mg Prefilled Syringe:
• COPAXONE 40 mg is injected 3 times each week, in the fatty layer under your skin (subcutaneously).
• COPAXONE 40 mg should be given on the same 3 days each week, if possible for example, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Give your COPAXONE injections at least 48 hours (2 days) apart.
• Each COPAXONE 40 mg prefilled syringe is for single use (1 time use) only.
• The COPAXONE 40 mg dose is packaged in boxes of 12 prefilled syringes with needles attached. COPAXONE 40 mg prefilled syringes have blue plungers.

How do I inject COPAXONE?

Step 1: Gather the supplies you will need to inject COPAXONE. See Figure A.
• 1 blister pack with a COPAXONE Prefilled Syringe with needle attached
• Alcohol wipe (not supplied)
• Dry cotton ball (not supplied)
• A place to record your injections, like a notebook (not supplied)
• Sharps disposal container (not supplied). See Step 13 below, “Dispose of your needles and syringes”.

Step 2: Remove only 1 blister pack from the COPAXONE prefilled syringe carton. See Figure B.

Step 3: Look closely at your COPAXONE prefilled syringe.
• There may be small air bubbles in the syringe. Do not try to push the air bubble from the syringe before giving your injection so you do not lose any medicine.
• Check the liquid medicine in the syringe before you give your injection. The liquid in the syringe should look clear, and colorless, and may look slightly yellow. If the liquid is cloudy or contains any particles, do not use the syringe and throw it away in a sharps disposal container. See Step 13 below, “Dispose of your needles and syringes.”

Step 4: Choose your injection area. See Figure C.
See the injection areas you should use on your body. Talk with your doctor about the injection areas that are best for you.
• The possible injection areas on your body include (See Figure C):
  • your stomach area (abdomen) around the belly button
  • the back of your upper arms
  • upper hips (below your waist)
  • your thighs (above your knees)

Step 5: Prepare to give your injection.
• There are some injection areas on your body that are hard to reach (like the back of your arm). You may need help from someone who has been instructed on how to give your injection if you cannot reach certain injection areas.
• Do not inject in sites where the skin has scarring or “dents”. Using scarred or dented skin for your injections may make your skin worse.
Step 6: Clean your injection site.
- Clean the injection site using the alcohol wipe and allow your skin to air dry. See Figure D.

Step 7: Pick up the syringe with 1 hand and hold it like a pencil. Remove the needle cover with your other hand and set it aside. See Figure E.

Step 8: Pinch about a 2 inch fold of skin between your thumb and index finger. See Figure F.

Step 9: Giving your injection.
- Rest the heel of your hand holding the syringe against your skin at the injection site. Insert the needle at a 90 degree angle straight into your skin. See Figure G.
- When the needle is all the way into your skin, release the fold of skin. See Figure H.

Step 10: Give your COPAXONE injection.
To inject the medicine, hold the syringe steady and slowly push down the plunger. See Figure I.

Step 11: Remove the needle.
After you have injected all of the medicine, pull the needle straight out. See Figure J.

Step 12: Use a clean, dry cotton ball to gently press on the injection site for a few seconds. Do not rub the injection site or re-use the needle or syringe. See Figure K.

Step 13: Dispose of your needles and syringes.
- Put your used needles and syringes in a FDA-cleared sharps disposal container right away after use. Do not throw away (dispose of) loose needles and syringes in your household trash.
- If you do not have a FDA-cleared sharps disposal container, you may use a household container that is:
  - made of a heavy-duty plastic,
  - can be closed with a tight-fitting, puncture-resistant lid, without sharps being able to come out,
  - upright and stable during use,
  - leak-resistant, and
  - properly labeled to warn of hazardous waste inside the container.
- When your sharps disposal container is almost full, you will need to follow your community guidelines for the right way to dispose of your sharps disposal container. There may be state or local laws about how you should throw away used needles and syringes. For more information about safe sharps disposal, and for specific information about sharps disposal in the state that you live in, go to the FDA’s website at: http://www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal.
- Do not dispose of your used sharps disposal container in your household trash unless your community guidelines permit this. Do not recycle your used sharps disposal container.

This Patient Information and Instructions for Use has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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