

1 **Rebif[®]** (interferon beta-1a)

2 **DESCRIPTION**

3 Rebif[®] (interferon beta-1a) is a purified 166 amino acid glycoprotein with a molecular weight of
4 approximately 22,500 daltons. It is produced by recombinant DNA technology using genetically
5 engineered Chinese Hamster Ovary cells into which the human interferon beta gene has been
6 introduced. The amino acid sequence of Rebif[®] is identical to that of natural fibroblast derived
7 human interferon beta. Natural interferon beta and interferon beta-1a (Rebif[®]) are glycosylated
8 with each containing a single N-linked complex carbohydrate moiety.

9 Using a reference standard calibrated against the World Health Organization natural interferon
10 beta standard (Second International Standard for Interferon, Human Fibroblast GB 23 902 531),
11 Rebif[®] has a specific activity of approximately 270 million international units (MIU) of antiviral
12 activity per mg of interferon beta-1a determined specifically by an in vitro cytopathic effect
13 bioassay using WISH cells and Vesicular Stomatitis virus. Rebif[®] 44 mcg contains
14 approximately 12 MIU of antiviral activity using this method.

15 Rebif[®] (interferon beta-1a) is formulated as a sterile solution in a pre-filled syringe intended for
16 subcutaneous (sc) injection. Each 0.5 ml (0.5 cc) of Rebif[®] contains either 44 mcg or 22 mcg of
17 interferon beta-1a, 4 or 2 mg albumin (human) USP, 27.3 mg mannitol USP, 0.4 mg sodium
18 acetate, Water for Injection USP.

19 **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

20 **General**

21 Interferons are a family of naturally occurring proteins that are produced by eukaryotic cells in
22 response to viral infection and other biological inducers. Interferons possess immunomodulatory,
23 antiviral and antiproliferative biological activities. They exert their biological effects by binding
24 to specific receptors on the surface of cells. Three major groups of interferons have been
25 distinguished: alpha, beta, and gamma. Interferons alpha and beta form the Type I interferons
26 and interferon gamma is a Type II interferon. Type I interferons have considerably overlapping
27 but also distinct biological activities. Interferon beta is produced naturally by various cell types
28 including fibroblasts and macrophages. Binding of interferon beta to its receptors initiates a
29 complex cascade of intracellular events that leads to the expression of numerous interferon-
30 induced gene products and markers, including 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase, beta 2-
31 microglobulin and neopterin, which may mediate some of the biological activities. The specific
32 interferon-induced proteins and mechanisms by which interferon beta-1a exerts its effects in
33 multiple sclerosis have not been fully defined.

34 **Pharmacokinetics**

35 The pharmacokinetics of Rebif[®] (interferon beta-1a) in people with multiple sclerosis have not
36 been evaluated. In healthy volunteer subjects, a single subcutaneous (sc) injection of 60 mcg of
37 Rebif[®] (liquid formulation), resulted in a peak serum concentration (C_{max}) of 5.1 ± 1.7 IU/mL
38 (mean \pm SD), with a median time of peak serum concentration (T_{max}) of 16 hours. The serum
39 elimination half-life ($t_{1/2}$) was 69 ± 37 hours, and the area under the serum concentration versus
40 time curve (AUC) from zero to 96 hours was 294 ± 81 IU·h/mL. Following every other day sc
41 injections in healthy volunteer subjects, an increase in AUC of approximately 240% was

42 observed, suggesting that accumulation of interferon beta-1a occurs after repeat administration.
43 Total clearance is approximately 33-55 L/hours. There have been no observed gender-related
44 effects on pharmacokinetic parameters. Pharmacokinetics of Rebif® in pediatric and geriatric
45 patients or patients with renal or hepatic insufficiency have not been established.

46 **Pharmacodynamics**

47 Biological response markers (e.g., 2'-5'-OAS activity, neopterin and beta 2-microglobulin) are
48 induced by interferon beta-1a following parenteral doses administered to healthy volunteer
49 subjects and to patients with multiple sclerosis. Following a single sc administration of 60 mcg
50 of Rebif® intracellular 2'-5' OAS activity peaked between 12 to 24 hours and beta-2-
51 microglobulin and neopterin serum concentrations showed a maximum at approximately 24 to 48
52 hours. All three markers remained elevated for up to four days. Administration of Rebif 22 mcg
53 three times per week (tiw) inhibited mitogen-induced release of pro-inflammatory cytokines
54 (IFN- γ , IL-1, IL-6, TNF- α and TNF- β) by peripheral blood mononuclear cells that, on average,
55 was near double that observed with Rebif® administered once per week (qw) at either 22 or 66
56 mcg.

57 The relationships between serum interferon beta-1a levels and measurable pharmacodynamic
58 activities to the mechanism(s) by which Rebif® exerts its effects in multiple sclerosis are
59 unknown. No gender-related effects on pharmacodynamic parameters have been observed.

61 **CLINICAL STUDIES**

62 Two multicenter studies evaluated the safety and efficacy of Rebif® in patients with relapsing-
63 remitting multiple sclerosis.

64 Study 1 was a randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled study in patients with multiple
65 sclerosis for at least one year, Kurtzke Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) scores ranging
66 from 0 to 5, and at least 2 acute exacerbations in the previous 2 years.⁽¹⁾ Patients with secondary
67 progressive multiple sclerosis were excluded from the study. Patients received sc injections of
68 either placebo (n = 187), Rebif® 22 mcg (n = 189), or Rebif® 44 mcg (n = 184) administered tiw
69 for two years. Doses of study agents were progressively increased to their target doses during
70 the first 4 to 8 weeks for each patient in the study (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

71 The primary efficacy endpoint was the number of clinical exacerbations. Numerous secondary
72 efficacy endpoints were also evaluated and included exacerbation-related parameters, effects of
73 treatment on progression of disability and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-related
74 parameters. Progression of disability was defined as an increase in the EDSS score of at least 1
75 point sustained for at least 3 months. Neurological examinations were completed every
76 3 months, during suspected exacerbations, and coincident with MRI scans. All patients
77 underwent proton density T2-weighted (PD/T2) MRI scans at baseline and every 6 months. A
78 subset of 198 patients underwent PD/T2 and T1-weighted gadolinium-enhanced (Gd)-MRI scans
79 monthly for the first 9 months. Of the 560 patients enrolled, 533 (95%) provided 2 years of data
80 and 502 (90%) received 2 years of study agent.

81 Study results are shown in Table 1 and Figure 1. Rebif[®] at doses of 22 mcg and 44 mcg
 82 administered sc tiw significantly reduced the number of exacerbations per patient as compared to
 83 placebo. Differences between the 22 mcg and 44 mcg groups were not significant (p >0.05).

84 **Table 1: Clinical and MRI Endpoints from Study 1**

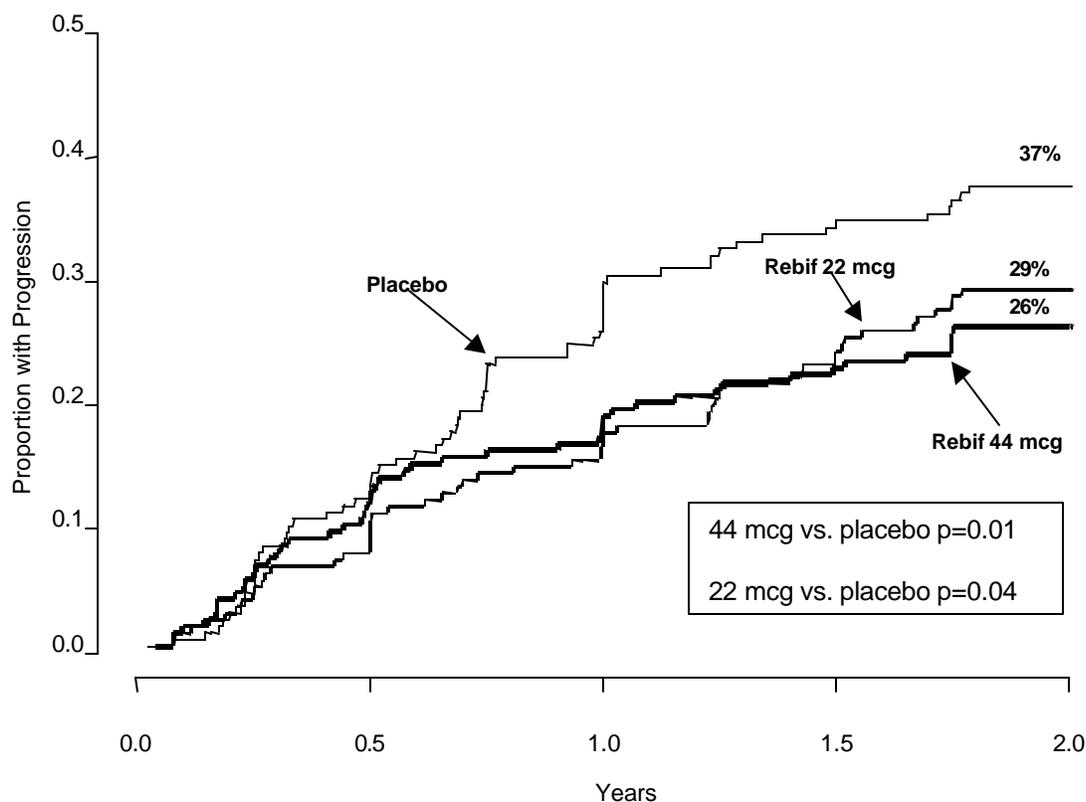
	Place bo	22 mcg tiw	44 mcg tiw
	n = 187	n = 189	n = 184
<u>Exacerbation-related</u>			
Mean number of exacerbations per patient over 2 years ^{1,2}	2.56	1.82**	1.73***
(Percent reduction)		(29%)	(32%)
Percent (%) of patients exacerbation-free at 2 years ³	15%	25%*	32%***
Median time to first exacerbation (months) ^{1,4}	4.5	7.6**	9.6***
<u>MRI</u>	n = 172	n = 171	n = 171
Median percent (%) change of MRI PD-T2 lesion area at 2 years ⁵	11.0	-1.2***	-3.8***

85
 86
 87 * p<0.05 compared to placebo ** p<0.001 compared to placebo *** p<0.0001 compared to placebo

- 88 (1) Intent-to-treat analysis
 89 (2) Poisson regression model adjusted for center and time on study
 90 (3) Logistic regression adjusted for center. Patients lost to follow-up prior to an exacerbation were
 91 excluded from this analysis (n = 185, 183, and 184 for the placebo, 22 mcg tiw, and 44 mcg tiw groups,
 92 respectively)
 93 (4) Cox proportional hazard model adjusted for center
 94 (5) ANOVA on ranks adjusted for center. Patients with missing scans were excluded from this analysis

95 The time to onset of progression in disability sustained for three months was significantly longer
96 in patients treated with Rebif[®] than in placebo-treated patients. The Kaplan-Meier estimates of
97 the proportions of patients with sustained disability are depicted in Figure 1.

98 **Figure 1: Proportions of Patients with Sustained Disability Progression**



99
100 Study 2 was a randomized, open-label, evaluator-blinded, active comparator study.⁽²⁾ Patients
101 with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis with EDSS scores ranging from 0 to 5.5, and at least 2
102 exacerbations in the previous 2 years were eligible for inclusion. Patients with secondary
103 progressive multiple sclerosis were excluded from the study. Patients were randomized to
104 treatment with Rebif[®] 44 mcg tiw by sc injection (n=339) or Avonex[®] 30 mcg qw by
105 intramuscular (im) injection (n=338). Study duration was 48 weeks.

106
107 The primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients who remained exacerbation-free at
108 24 weeks. The principal secondary endpoint was the mean number per patient per scan of

109 combined unique active MRI lesions through 24 weeks, defined as any lesion that was T1 active
 110 or T2 active. Neurological examinations were performed every three months by a neurologist
 111 blinded to treatment assignment. Patient visits were conducted monthly, and mid-month
 112 telephone contacts were made to inquire about potential exacerbations. If an exacerbation was
 113 suspected, the patient was evaluated with a neurological examination. MRI scans were
 114 performed monthly and analyzed in a treatment–blinded manner.

115 Patients treated with Rebif® 44 mcg sc tiw were more likely to remain relapse-free during the
 116 24-week treatment period than were patients treated with Avonex® 30 mcg im qw (Table 2).
 117 The design of this study does not support any conclusion regarding effects on the accumulation
 118 of physical disability.

119 **Table 2: Clinical and MRI Results from Study 2**

	Rebif®	Avonex®	Absolute Difference	Risk of relapse on Rebif® relative to Avonex®
Relapses	N=339	N=338		
Proportion of patients relapse-free at 24 weeks ¹	75%*	63%	12% (95% CI: 5%, 19%)	0.68 (95% CI: 0.54, 0.86)
MRI	N=325	N=325		
Median of the mean number of combined unique MRI lesions per patient per scan ² (25 th , 75 th percentiles)	0.17* (0.00, 0.67)	0.33 (0.00, 1.29)		

120 * p <0.001 Rebif® compared to Avonex®

121 (1) Logistic regression model adjusted for treatment and center, intent to treat analysis

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122 (2) Nonparametric ANCOVA model adjusted for treatment, center, with baseline combined unique
123 lesions as the single covariate.

124 The adverse reactions were generally similar between the two treatment groups. Exceptions
125 included injection site disorders (80% of patients on Rebif® vs. 24% of patients on Avonex®),
126 hepatic function disorders (14% on Rebif® vs. 7% on Avonex®), and leukopenia (3% on Rebif®
127 vs. <1% on Avonex®), which were observed with greater frequency in the Rebif® group
128 compared to the Avonex® group.

129 **INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

130 Rebif® (interferon-beta-1a) is indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsing forms of
131 multiple sclerosis to decrease the frequency of clinical exacerbations and delay the accumulation
132 of physical disability. Efficacy of Rebif® in chronic progressive multiple sclerosis has not been
133 established.

134 **CONTRAINDICATIONS**

135 Rebif® (interferon beta-1a) is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to
136 natural or recombinant interferon, human albumin, or any other component of the formulation.

137 **WARNINGS**

138 **Depression**

139 Rebif® (interferon beta-1a) should be used with caution in patients with depression, a condition
140 that is common in people with multiple sclerosis. Depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide
141 attempts have been reported to occur with increased frequency in patients receiving interferon
142 compounds, including Rebif®. Patients should be advised to report immediately any symptoms

143 of depression and/or suicidal ideation to the prescribing physician. If a patient develops
144 depression, cessation of treatment with Rebif® should be considered.

145 **Hepatic Injury**

146 A case of fulminant hepatic failure requiring liver transplantation in a patient who initiated
147 Rebif® therapy while taking another potentially hepato-toxic medication has been reported from
148 a non-U.S. postmarketing source. Symptomatic hepatic dysfunction, primarily presenting as
149 jaundice, has been reported as a rare complication of Rebif use. Asymptomatic elevation of
150 hepatic transaminases (particularly SGPT) is common with interferon therapy (see ADVERSE
151 REACTIONS). Rebif® should be initiated with caution in patients with active liver disease,
152 alcohol abuse, increased serum SGPT (> 2.5 times ULN), or a history of significant liver disease.
153 Dose reduction should be considered if SGPT rises above 5 times the upper limit of normal. The
154 dose may be gradually re-escalated when enzyme levels have normalized. Treatment with
155 Rebif® should be stopped if jaundice or other clinical symptoms of liver dysfunction appear.

156 **Anaphylaxis**

157 Anaphylaxis has been reported as a rare complication of Rebif® use. Other allergic reactions
158 have included skin rash and urticaria, and have ranged from mild to severe without a clear
159 relationship to dose or duration of exposure. Several allergic reactions, some severe, have
160 occurred after prolonged use.

161 **Albumin (Human)**

162 This product contains albumin, a derivative of human blood. Based on effective donor screening
163 and product manufacturing processes, it carries an extremely remote risk for transmission of viral
164 diseases. A theoretical risk for transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) also is

165 considered extremely remote. No cases of transmission of viral diseases or CJD have ever been
166 identified for albumin.

167 **PRECAUTIONS**

168 **General**

169 Caution should be exercised when administering Rebif® to patients with pre-existing seizure
170 disorders. Seizures have been associated with the use of beta interferons. A relationship
171 between occurrence of seizures and the use of Rebif® has not been established. Leukopenia and
172 new or worsening thyroid abnormalities have developed in some patients treated with Rebif®
173 (See ADVERSE REACTIONS). Regular monitoring for these conditions is recommended (see
174 PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory Tests).

175 **Information for Patients**

176 All patients should be instructed to read the Rebif® Medication Guide supplied to them. Patients
177 should be cautioned not to change the dosage or the schedule of administration without medical
178 consultation.

179 Patients should be informed of the most common and the most severe adverse reactions
180 associated with the use of Rebif® (see WARNINGS and ADVERSE REACTIONS). Patients
181 should be advised of the symptoms associated with these conditions, and to report them to their
182 physician.

183 Female patients should be cautioned about the abortifacient potential of Rebif® (see
184 PRECAUTIONS: Pregnancy).

185 Patients should be instructed in the use of aseptic technique when administering Rebif®.
186 Appropriate instruction for self-injection or injection by another person should be provided,
187 including careful review of the Rebif® Medication Guide. If a patient is to self-administer
188 Rebif®, the physical and cognitive ability of that patient to self-administer and properly dispose
189 of syringes should be assessed. The initial injection should be performed under the supervision
190 of an appropriately qualified health care professional. Patients should be advised of the
191 importance of rotating sites of injection with each dose, to minimize the likelihood of severe
192 injection site reactions or necrosis. A puncture-resistant container for disposal of used needles
193 and syringes should be supplied to the patient along with instructions for safe disposal of full
194 containers. Patients should be instructed in the technique and importance of proper syringe
195 disposal and be cautioned against reuse of these items.

196 **Laboratory Tests**

197 In addition to those laboratory tests normally required for monitoring patients with multiple
198 sclerosis, blood cell counts and liver function tests are recommended at regular intervals (1, 3,
199 and 6 months) following introduction of Rebif® therapy and then periodically thereafter in the
200 absence of clinical symptoms. Thyroid function tests are recommended every 6 months in
201 patients with a history of thyroid dysfunction or as clinically indicated. Patients with
202 myelosuppression may require more intensive monitoring of complete blood cell counts, with
203 differential and platelet counts.

204 **Drug Interactions**

205 No formal drug interaction studies have been conducted with Rebif®. Due to its potential to
206 cause neutropenia and lymphopenia, proper monitoring of patients is required if Rebif® is given
207 in combination with myelosuppressive agents.

208 **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility**

209 *Carcinogenesis:* No carcinogenicity data for Rebif® are available in animals or humans.

210 *Mutagenesis:* Rebif® was not mutagenic when tested in the Ames bacterial test and in an *in vitro*
211 cytogenetic assay in human lymphocytes in the presence and absence of metabolic activation.

212 *Impairment of Fertility:* No studies have been conducted to evaluate the effects of Rebif® on
213 fertility in humans. In studies in normally cycling female cynomolgus monkeys given daily sc
214 injections of Rebif® for six months at doses of up to 9 times the recommended weekly human
215 dose (based on body surface area), no effects were observed on either menstrual cycling or serum
216 estradiol levels. The validity of extrapolating doses used in animal studies to human doses is not
217 established. In male monkeys, the same doses of Rebif® had no demonstrable adverse effects on
218 sperm count, motility, morphology, or function.

219 **Pregnancy Category C**

220 Rebif® treatment has been associated with significant increases in embryo-lethal or abortifacient
221 effects in cynomolgus monkeys administered doses approximately 2 times the cumulative
222 weekly human dose (based on either body weight or surface area) either during the period of
223 organogenesis (gestation day 21-89) or later in pregnancy. There were no fetal malformations or
224 other evidence of teratogenesis noted in these studies. These effects are consistent with the
225 abortifacient effects of other type I interferons. There are no adequate and well-controlled
226 studies of Rebif® in pregnant women. However, in Studies 1 and 2, there were 2 spontaneous
227 abortions observed and 5 fetuses carried to term among 7 women in the Rebif® groups. If a
228 woman becomes pregnant or plans to become pregnant while taking Rebif®, she should be

229 informed about the potential hazards to the fetus and discontinuation of Rebif® should be
230 considered.

231 **Nursing Mothers**

232 It is not known whether Rebif® is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in
233 human milk, caution should be exercised when Rebif® is administered to a nursing woman.

234 **Pediatric Use:** The safety and effectiveness of Rebif® in pediatric patients have not been
235 studied.

236 **Geriatric Use:** Clinical studies of Rebif® did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65
237 and over to determine whether they respond differently than younger subjects. In general, dose
238 selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing
239 range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal or cardiac function, and of
240 concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

241 **ADVERSE REACTIONS**

242 The most frequently reported serious adverse reactions with Rebif® were psychiatric disorders
243 including depression and suicidal ideation or attempt (See WARNINGS). The incidence of
244 depression of any severity in the Rebif®-treated groups and placebo-treated group was
245 approximately 25%. The most commonly reported adverse reactions were injection site
246 disorders, influenza-like symptoms (headache, fatigue, fever, rigors, chest pain, back pain,
247 myalgia), abdominal pain, depression, elevation of liver enzymes and hematologic abnormalities.
248 The most frequently reported adverse reactions resulting in clinical intervention (e.g.,
249 discontinuation of Rebif®, adjustment in dosage, or the need for concomitant medication to treat

250 an adverse reaction symptom) were injection site disorders, influenza-like symptoms, depression
251 and elevation of liver enzymes (See WARNINGS).

252

253 In Study 1, 6 patients randomized to Rebif® 44 mcg tiw (3%), and 2 patients who received
254 Rebif® 22 mcg tiw (1%) developed injection site necrosis during two years of therapy. All
255 events resolved with conservative management; none required skin debridement or grafting.
256 Rebif® was continued in 7 patients and interrupted briefly in one patient. There were no reports
257 of injection site necrosis in Study 2 during 24 weeks of Rebif treatment.

258

259 The rates of adverse reactions and association with Rebif® in patients with relapsing-remitting
260 multiple sclerosis are drawn from the placebo-controlled study (n = 560) and the active
261 comparator-controlled study (n = 339).

262

263 The population encompassed an age range from 18 to 55 years. Nearly three-fourths of the
264 patients were female, and more than 90% were Caucasian, largely reflecting the general
265 demographics of the population of patients with multiple sclerosis.

266

267 Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates
268 observed in the clinical trials of Rebif® cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials
269 of other drugs and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

270

271 Table 3 enumerates adverse events and laboratory abnormalities that occurred at an incidence
272 that was at least 2% more in either Rebif®-treated group than was observed in the placebo group.

273

Table 3. Adverse Reactions and Laboratory Abnormalities in Study 1

Body System Preferred Term	Placebo tiw (n=187)	Rebif® 22 mcg tiw (n=189)	Rebif® 44 mcg tiw (n=184)
BODY AS A WHOLE			
Influenza-like symptoms	51%	56%	59%
Headache	63%	65%	70%
Fatigue	36%	33%	41%
Fever	16%	25%	28%
Rigors	5%	6%	13%
Chest Pain	5%	6%	8%
Malaise	1%	4%	5%
INJECTION SITE DISORDERS			
Injection Site Reaction	39%	89%	92%
Injection Site Necrosis	0%	1%	3%
CENTRAL & PERIPH NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS			
Hypertonia	5%	7%	6%
Coordination Abnormal	2%	5%	4%
Convulsions	2%	5%	4%
ENDOCRINE DISORDERS			
Thyroid Disorder	3%	4%	6%
GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM DISORDERS			
Abdominal Pain	17%	22%	20%
Dry Mouth	1%	1%	5%
LIVER AND BILIARY SYSTEM DISORDERS			
SGPT Increased	4%	20%	27%
SGOT Increased	4%	10%	17%
Hepatic Function Abnormal	2%	4%	9%
Bilirubinaemia	1%	3%	2%
MUSCULO-SKELETAL SYSTEM DISORDERS			
Myalgia	20%	25%	25%
Back Pain	20%	23%	25%
Skeletal Pain	10%	15%	10%
HEMATOLOGIC DISORDERS			
Leukopenia	14%	28%	36%
Lymphadenopathy	8%	11%	12%
Thrombocytopenia	2%	2%	8%
Anemia	3%	3%	5%
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS			
Somnolence	1%	4%	5%
SKIN DISORDERS			
Rash Erythematous	3%	7%	5%
Rash Maculo-Papular	2%	5%	4%

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URINARY SYSTEM DISORDERS			
Micturition Frequency	4%	2%	7%
Urinary Incontinence	2%	4%	2%
VISION DISORDERS			
Vision Abnormal	7%	7%	13%
Xerophthalmia	0%	3%	1%

277 The adverse reactions were generally similar in Studies 1 and 2, taking into account the disparity
 278 in study durations.

279 **Immunogenicity**

280 As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity. In study 1, the presence
 281 of neutralizing antibodies (NAb) to Rebif® was determined by collecting and analyzing serum
 282 pre-study and at 6 month time intervals during the 2 years of the clinical trial. Serum NAb were
 283 detected in 45/184 (24%) of Rebif®-treated patients at the 44 mcg tiw dose at one or more times
 284 during the study. The clinical significance of the presence of NAb to Rebif® is unknown.

285 The data reflect the percentage of patients whose test results were considered positive for
 286 antibodies to Rebif® using an antiviral cytopathic effect assay, and are highly dependent on the
 287 sensitivity and specificity of the assay. Additionally, the observed incidence of NAb positivity in
 288 an assay may be influenced by several factors including sample handling, timing of sample
 289 collection, concomitant medications and underlying disease. For these reasons, comparison of
 290 the incidence of antibodies to Rebif® with the incidence of antibodies to other products may be
 291 misleading.

292 Anaphylaxis and other allergic reactions have been observed with the use of Rebif® (See
 293 WARNINGS: Anaphylaxis).

294 **DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE**

295 There is no evidence that abuse or dependence occurs with Rebif[®] therapy. However, the risk of
296 dependence has not been systematically evaluated.

297

298 **OVERDOSAGE**

299 Safety of doses higher than 44 mcg sc tiw have not been adequately evaluated. The maximum
300 amount of Rebif[®] that can be safely administered has not been determined.

301 **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

302 The recommended dosage of Rebif[®] is 44 mcg injected subcutaneously three times per week.
303 Rebif[®] should be administered, if possible, at the same time (preferably in the late afternoon or
304 evening) on the same three days (e.g. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) at least 48 hours apart
305 each week (see CLINICAL STUDIES). Generally, patients should be started at 8.8 mcg sc tiw
306 and increased over a 4-week period to 44 mcg tiw (see Table 4). A Rebif[®] “Starter Kit”
307 containing 22 mcg syringes, is available for use in titrating the dose during the first four weeks of
308 treatment. Following the administration of each dose, any residual product remaining in the
309 syringe should be discarded in a safe and proper manner.

310 **Table 4: Schedule for Patient Titration**

311

	Recommended Titration	Rebif [®] Dose	Volume	Syringe Strength (per 0.5 mL)
Weeks 1-2	20 %	8.8 mcg	0.2 mL	22 mcg

Weeks 3–4	50 %	22 mcg	0.5 mL	22 mcg
Weeks 5+	100 %	44 mcg	0.5 mL	44 mcg

312
313 Leukopenia or elevated liver function tests may necessitate dose reductions of 20 – 50% until
314 toxicity is resolved (See WARNINGS: Hepatic Injury and PRECAUTIONS: General).

315 Rebif[®] is intended for use under the guidance and supervision of a physician. It is recommended
316 that physicians or qualified medical personnel train patients in the proper technique for self-
317 administering subcutaneous injections using the pre-filled syringe. Patients should be advised to
318 rotate sites for sc injections (See PRECAUTIONS: Information for Patients). Concurrent use of
319 analgesics and/or antipyretics may help ameliorate flu-like symptoms on treatment days. Rebif[®]
320 should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration.

321 **Stability and Storage**

322 Rebif[®] should be stored refrigerated between 2–8°C (36–46°F). DO NOT FREEZE. If a
323 refrigerator is temporarily not available, such as while you are traveling, Rebif[®] should be kept
324 cool (i.e., below 25° C/77° F) and away from heat and light.

325 Do not use beyond the expiration date printed on packages. Rebif[®] contains no preservatives.
326 Each syringe is intended for single use. Unused portions should be discarded.

327 **HOW SUPPLIED**

328 Rebif[®] is supplied as a sterile, preservative-free solution packaged in graduated, ready to use 0.5
329 mL pre-filled syringes with 27-gauge, 0.5 inch needle for subcutaneous injection. The following
330 package presentations are available.

331

332

333

334

335 **Rebif[®] (interferon beta -1a) Starter Pack (for initial dose escalation)**

336 - Twelve Rebif[®] 22 mcg pre-filled syringes, NDC 44087-0022-3

337 **Rebif[®] (interferon beta -1a) 44 mcg Pre-filled syringe**

338 - One Rebif[®] 44 mcg pre-filled syringe, NDC 44087-0044-1

339 - Three Rebif[®] 44 mcg pre-filled syringes, NDC 44087-0044-2

340 - Twelve Rebif[®] 44 mcg pre-filled syringes, NDC 44087-0044-3

341 **RX only.**

342

343 References

344 **1.** PRISMS Study Group. Randomized double-blind placebo-controlled study of interferon

345 β -1a in relapsing/remitting multiple sclerosis. Lancet 1998; 352: 1498-1504.

346 **2.** Data on file.

347

348 Manufacturer: Serono, Inc. Randolph, MA 02368

349

350 Issued: March, 2002

351

352 *Avonex® is a registered trademark of Biogen, Inc.

353