

## CONSUMER INFORMATION

### PrGILENYA® Fingolimod (as fingolimod hydrochloride)

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when GILENYA® was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about GILENYA®. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

#### ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

##### What the medication is used for:

GILENYA® is used to treat adult patients with the relapsing and remitting form of multiple sclerosis (MS). GILENYA® is generally recommended for MS patients who have not responded well to, or cannot tolerate one or more of the other therapies for multiple sclerosis.

##### What it does:

GILENYA® does not cure MS, but it helps to reduce the number of attacks (relapses) that occur, reduce inflammation in the brain (brain lesions identified seen on MRI scans), and slow the build-up of physical problems due to MS (disability progression).

GILENYA® changes how the body's immune system works by decreasing the ability of lymphocytes to move freely within the body. This lowers the number of lymphocytes in the blood and prevents them from reaching the brain and spinal cord. This may reduce the inflammation and nerve damage that happens in MS.

##### When it should not be used:

You should not take GILENYA® if:

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to fingolimod or to any of the other ingredients listed in this leaflet.
- your immune system is weakened (immunocompromised) due to disease (immunodeficiency syndrome) or medicines or treatments that suppress the immune system, such as medicines used to treat cancer or bone marrow transplantation.
- you have a severe active infection or an active chronic infection such as hepatitis or tuberculosis.
- you have an active cancer (except for a type of skin cancer called basal cell carcinoma).
- you have severe liver disease.

##### What the medicinal ingredient is:

The active substance of GILENYA® is fingolimod.

##### What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:

The nonmedicinal ingredients of GILENYA® hard capsules are: gelatin, magnesium stearate, mannitol, titanium dioxide and yellow iron oxide.

##### What dosage forms it comes in:

GILENYA® is supplied as hard capsules. Each hard capsule contains 0.5 mg of fingolimod (as fingolimod hydrochloride).

#### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

##### Chickenpox vaccine

Patients who have not had chickenpox or have not had the chickenpox vaccine are at risk of having a serious and life-threatening chickenpox infection during treatment with GILENYA®. There have been very rare fatal cases of chickenpox infection reported in patients treated with GILENYA®, who also received a relatively long course of corticosteroid therapy.

**If you are not protected against chickenpox, your doctor may recommend that you receive the chickenpox vaccine 1 month before starting treatment with GILENYA®.**

**BEFORE you use GILENYA® talk to your doctor or pharmacist if:**

- you have heart problems, such as **an irregular or abnormal heartbeat, a heart disease, high blood pressure, a history of stroke or other diseases related to blood vessels in the brain, severe untreated sleep apnea, or if you are at risk for, or if you have heart rhythm disturbances.**
- **you are taking medicines for an irregular heartbeat** such as quinidine, procainamide, amiodarone or sotalol.
- **you suffer from slow heart rate, you are already taking other medicines that slow your heart rate or you have a history of sudden loss of consciousness (fainting).**
- you have a weakened immune system (due to a disease or medicines that suppress the immune system).
- you have been vaccinated within 1 month before you start taking GILENYA® or you plan to receive a vaccine. You should not receive certain types of vaccines (called "live attenuated vaccines") during and for up to 2 months after treatment with GILENYA®.
- you have never had chickenpox or have not been vaccinated for chickenpox.
- you have or have had visual disturbances or other signs of swelling in the central vision area at the back of the eye (a condition known as macular edema), inflammation or infection of the eye (uveitis).
- you have diabetes. Diabetes increases the risk of having macular edema during GILENYA® treatment.
- you have liver problems. GILENYA® may affect your liver function.
- you have low or high blood pressure. GILENYA® causes a mild increase in blood pressure.
- you have high cholesterol or triglyceride levels. GILENYA® may increase blood levels of cholesterol and triglycerides.
- you have kidney problems.
- you have breathing problems. GILENYA® has a slight effect on lung function.
- you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are trying to become pregnant.
- you are breast feeding.

**Monitoring:** Before you start treatment and periodically during treatment, your doctor may want you to undergo several tests to help monitor side-effects of GILENYA®. These will include: blood tests (to check your white blood cell counts, liver function), eye examination (to monitor for macular edema), checks of your heart rhythm and blood pressure, and possibly lung function.

### Slow heart rate and irregular heart beat

GILENYA® causes the heart rate to slow down, especially during the first month of treatment. GILENYA® can also cause an irregular heartbeat, especially after the first dose. Irregular heartbeat usually returns to normal in less than one day. Slow heart rate usually returns to normal within one month. These heart rhythm disturbances may be more likely in patients with risk factors, such as heart disease, or when certain interacting drugs are taken. In general, people more than 65 years of age are at higher risk.

If you have an irregular or abnormal heartbeat or a history of sudden loss of consciousness (fainting), your condition may worsen temporarily with GILENYA®. The same applies if you have a slow heart rate or if you are taking medicines which slow the heartbeat.

If you experience any symptoms of a possible heart rhythm disturbance, such as dizziness, palpitations (sensation of rapid, pounding, or irregular heart beat), fainting, or seizures, at any time during treatment with GILENYA®, you should seek immediate medical attention.

**Because GILENYA® has side effects on the heart, you will be required to have an electrocardiogram (ECG) to check the health of your heart before you start GILENYA®. Your doctor will ask you to stay in the clinic or office for at least 6 hours after taking the first dose of GILENYA® so your heart rate and blood pressure can be checked each hour and appropriate measures can be taken if heart-related side effects occur at the start of treatment. A second ECG will be done 6 hours after taking the first dose.** Depending on the results of the ECG, blood pressure checks and how you are feeling, you may need to be observed for longer, possibly overnight, in a health care facility. The same observation process may apply if you are starting treatment again after a break from GILENYA® therapy.

### Infections

The effects of GILENYA® on your body's immune system may reduce your body's ability to fight infections and you may get infections more easily while you are taking GILENYA® (and for up to 2 months after you stop taking it). If you have an infection, tell your doctor before you take GILENYA®. Any infection that you already have may get worse. Infections could be serious and sometimes life-threatening. Before you start taking GILENYA®, your doctor will confirm whether you have enough white blood cells in your blood. **During your treatment** with GILENYA®, if you think you have an infection, have fever, feel like you have the flu, or have a headache with a stiff neck, sensitivity to light, nausea, and/or confusion (these may be symptoms of meningitis), contact your doctor right away. If you believe your MS is getting

worse (e.g. weakness or visual changes) or if you notice any new or unusual symptoms, talk to your doctor as soon as possible, because these may be the symptoms of a rare brain disorder caused by infection and called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML).

The use of other medications and treatments that suppress or change how the immune system works is not recommended during treatment with GILENYA® because the risk of infections can be increased further.

### Macular edema

A problem with your vision, called macular edema, can occur during treatment with GILENYA®. Macular edema can cause some of the same vision symptoms as an MS attack (optic neuritis), but you also may not notice any symptoms. Macular edema usually starts in the first 3 to 4 months after you start taking GILENYA®. Your doctor should therefore test your vision 3 to 4 months after you start taking GILENYA®, or any time you notice vision changes during treatment.

Your risk of macular edema may be higher if you have diabetes or have had an inflammation of your eye called uveitis. If you have or have had visual disturbances or other signs of swelling in the central vision area (macula) at the back of the eye, uveitis or diabetes, your doctor should test your vision before you start taking GILENYA®.

### Other warnings you should know about:

The effects of GILENYA® on the body's immune system may increase the risk of developing lymphoma and other cancers such as skin cancer. Lymphoma and skin cancer, mostly basal cell carcinoma, have been reported in patients treated with GILENYA®.

If you already have moles or open sores before starting treatment with GILENYA®, pay attention for changes in the size, shape or color of moles or the healing of open sores (not healing within weeks) after you start treatment. These may be signs of skin cancer that you should talk to your doctor about.

A type of skin cancer called basal cell carcinoma (BCC) has been reported in MS patients treated with GILENYA®. During treatment with GILENYA® you should check your skin regularly for unusual changes. Talk to your doctor if you notice any skin nodules (e.g. shiny pearly nodules), patches or open sores that do not heal within weeks (these may be signs of BCC). Your doctor will also do regular skin examinations during your treatment with GILENYA®.

### Older people (over 65 years old)

GILENYA® was studied in very few MS patients over 65 years old. Treatment with GILENYA® requires extra caution in older patients due to the greater likelihood of having other medical problems in addition to MS.

### Children and adolescents (under 18 years old)

GILENYA® should not be used in children and adolescents as it has not been studied in MS patients aged under 18.

## Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Before you start treatment with GILENYA® your doctor may ask you to have a pregnancy test to ensure that you are not pregnant.

You should avoid becoming pregnant while taking GILENYA® or in the two months after you stop taking it because of the risk of harming your unborn child. Talk with your doctor about the associated risk and about reliable methods of birth control that you should use during treatment and for 2 months after you stop treatment.

If you do become pregnant while taking GILENYA® tell your doctor right away. You and your doctor will decide what is best for you and your baby. If you become pregnant while taking GILENYA®, you can call the GILENYA® Pregnancy Registry at 1-855-788-5333.

You should not breast-feed while you are taking GILENYA®. GILENYA® can pass into breast milk and there is a risk of serious side effects for a breast-fed baby.

## Driving and using machines

After the first dose of GILENYA®, you will need to stay at the doctor's office or clinic for at least 6 hours to have your heart rate checked. Your ability to drive and use machines may be affected during and potentially after this period.

## INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken any of the following medicines:

- **Medicines for heart problems or high blood pressure.**
- **Medicines for an irregular heartbeat** such as, quinidine, procainamide, amiodarone or sotalol.
- **Medicines that slow down heartbeat** such as atenolol or metoprolol (called beta-blockers), such as verapamil, or diltiazem (called calcium channel blockers) or digoxin.
- **Medicines that suppress or modulate the immune system including other medicines used to treat MS** (beta-interferon, glatiramer acetate, natalizumab, mitoxantrone, dimethyl fumarate, teriflunomide, alemtuzumab or corticosteroids) **or medicines used to treat cancer.** GILENYA® should not be started while you are on these medications or for several months after you have stopped taking some of these medications due to a possible added effect on the immune system and potential for increased risk of serious infections. However, starting treatment with GILENYA® after alemtuzumab is not recommended.

When corticosteroids were used for a few days to treat relapses in the multiple sclerosis studies with GILENYA® this did not result in increased infections. However, because there is the potential for increased risk of infection, extra caution is recommended if corticosteroids are used.

- **Vaccines.** If you need to receive a vaccine, seek your doctor's advice first. During and for up to 2 months after stopping

treatment with GILENYA®, administration of some vaccines containing live virus (live attenuated vaccines) may result in the infection that the vaccination should prevent, while other vaccines may not work well enough to protect you.

- **Antifungal drugs** (such as ketoconazole).
- **Antibiotics** (such as erythromycin).
- **Drugs to treat HIV infection.**
- **Asthma drugs.**

## PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Always take GILENYA® exactly as your doctor has told you.

### Usual adult dose:

The dose is one capsule per day (0.5 mg of fingolimod) taken orally (by mouth).

Take GILENYA® once a day, at the same time each day with half a glass of water. GILENYA® can be taken with or without food.

Do not stop taking GILENYA® or change your dose without talking with your doctor.

GILENYA® will stay in your body for up to 2 months after you stop taking it, the side effects described in this leaflet may still occur during that time.

### Overdose:

If you have taken more GILENYA® than your doctor has recommended contact the regional Poison Control Centre and a health care practitioner immediately, or go to the nearest hospital emergency department, even if there are no symptoms. Take the medication package with you when you go to the hospital.

### Missed Dose:

If you forget a dose, take the next dose as planned. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you have been taking GILENYA® for less than 2 weeks and you forget to take a dose for one day, or if you stop taking GILENYA® for more than 7 days during weeks 3 and 4 of treatment, contact your doctor right away. Your doctor may decide to observe you at the time you take the next dose.

If you start GILENYA® again after stopping for 2 weeks or more, you will start taking GILENYA® again in your doctor's office or clinic. Do not restart GILENYA® after stopping it for more than two weeks without seeking advice from your doctor.

## SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

As with all medicines, patients treated with GILENYA® may experience side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**Very common side effects** (affect more than 1 in 10 patients):

- Flu virus infection

- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Back pain
- Cough

**Common side effects** (affect between 1 and 10 in every 100 patients):

- Sinusitis
- Fungal infections affecting skin, nails or hair
- Dizziness
- Migraine
- Weakness
- Mild increase in blood pressure
- Skin rash
- Hair loss
- Itchy skin
- Weight loss
- Blurred vision
- Breathlessness
- Tingling or numbness
- Depression
- Eye pain

**Uncommon side effects** (affect between 1 and 10 in every 1,000 patients):

- Depressed mood.

**Frequency not known:**

- Allergic reactions, including symptoms of rash or itchy hives, swelling of lips, tongue or face, which are more likely to occur on the day you start GILENYA® treatment.
- A rare brain disorder caused by infection and called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). The symptoms of PML may be similar to MS (e.g. weakness or visual changes).
- Nausea.

If any of these side effects affects you severely, tell your doctor.

If you notice any other side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your doctor or pharmacist.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM				
Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and seek immediate emergency help
		Only if severe	In all cases	
gastroenteritis such as vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, fever				
Symptoms of shingles (or herpes zoster) such as blisters, burning, itching or pain of the skin, typically on the upper body or the face. Other symptoms may be fever followed by numbness, itching or red patches with severe pain			✓	
Symptoms of slow heartbeat (bradycardia) such as feeling dizzy, tired, awareness of own heartbeat, decrease in blood pressure			✓	
Symptoms of a type of skin cancer called basal cell carcinoma (BCC), which often appears as a pearly nodule, though it can also take other forms			✓	
Symptoms of low level of white blood cells such as fever, sore throat or mouth ulcers due to infections			✓	
Uncommon	Symptoms of pneumonia such as fever, cough, difficulty breathing		✓	
	Symptoms of macular edema (swelling in the central vision area of the retina at the		✓	

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM				
Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and seek immediate emergency help
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Common	Symptoms of bronchitis such as cough with phlegm, chest pain, fever		✓	
	Symptoms of		✓	

**SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Symptom / effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and seek immediate emergency help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
back of the eye) such as shadows or blind spot in the center of the vision, blurred vision, problems seeing colors or fine details			
Liver disorder (symptoms include nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, swelling and/or pain in the abdomen, fatigue, itching, yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine)		✓	
Trouble breathing		✓	
<b>Rare</b>			✓
Stroke (symptoms include weakness and/or loss of sensation of limbs or face, difficulty speaking, clumsiness, visual loss)			✓
Peripheral artery disease (symptoms include cold, painful, discolored digits or limb)			✓
Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) (symptoms may include sudden severe headache, nausea, vomiting, confusion, drowsiness, personality change paralysis, abnormal speech, convulsions and vision changes)			✓
Cancer of the lymphatic system (lymphoma) (symptoms may		✓	

**SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Symptom / effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and seek immediate emergency help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
include painless swelling of lymph node, enlarged tonsils, fever, chills, night sweats, fatigue, itching, unexplained weight loss, loss of appetite, persistent coughing/ breathlessness and headache)			
<b>Isolated cases</b>			✓
Temporary but serious irregularity in heart beat			✓
Cryptococcal infections (a type of fungal infection), including meningitis with symptoms such as headache with a stiff neck, sensitivity to light, nausea, and/or confusion		✓	
Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), a rare brain infection (symptoms may include weakness or visual changes)		✓	

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking GILENYA®, contact your doctor or pharmacist.*

**HOW TO STORE IT**

- Do not use GILENYA® after the expiry date shown on the box.
- Store at 15-25°C.
- Store in the original package, protect from moisture.
- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

**REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS**

**You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:**

- **Report online at**  
**www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect**
- **Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345**
- **Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:**
  - **Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or**
  - **Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program**  
**Health Canada**  
**Postal Locator 0701E**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**  
**K1A 0K9**

**Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guidelines are available on the MedEffect™ Canada Web site at [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect).**

*NOTE: Should you require information related to the management of side effects, contact your health professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Please consult your doctor or pharmacist with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your individual condition.

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found at:

<http://www.novartis.ca>

or by contacting the sponsor, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., at:

1-800-363-8883

If you become pregnant while taking GILENYA®, talk to your doctor about registering with the GILENYA® Pregnancy Registry. You can enroll in this registry by calling:

1-855-788-5333.

This leaflet was prepared by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., 385 Bouchard Blvd., Dorval, Quebec, H9S 1A9.

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