

BENEFIT study shows Betaferon reduces risk of developing multiple sclerosis

Schering announced results from the subgroup analysis of the BENEFIT* study which showed that Betaferon® (interferon beta-1b) 250mcg treatment



reduced the risk of developing clinically definite MS (CDMS) consistently across all subgroups regardless of age, gender, steroid treatment or symptoms at onset of disease.

These data were part of the BENEFIT results, which showed that Betaferon 250mcg treatment reduced the risk of developing clinically definite MS (CDMS) by 50% compared with placebo. The BENEFIT trial tested patients presenting with one clinical episode suggestive of MS for a period of up to 24 months.

"In the BENEFIT study, we found that

Betaferon reduced the risk of developing MS consistently throughout the study population. Additionally, we found that certain patient subgroups had an even

better response to early treatment with Betaferon," said Dr. Chris Polman, Professor of Neurology, VU Medical Center, Amsterdam. Betaferon was very well accepted in the BENEFIT study, with 93% of patients completing the two-year study period. More than 95% of all patients completing the study have elected to continue with Betaferon as part of an open-label follow-up study.

For further information
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Ipsen launches the access programme

Ipsen Ltd, the UK subsidiary of the Ipsen Group, has launched the access programme, a new, innovative and flexible medical education service. The key objectives of access are:

- to provide health professionals with 'access' to botulinum toxin training and clinical expertise
- to provide health professionals with 'access' to information resources and support for conditions where botulinum toxin is used
- to provide 'access' to information for people



with conditions that are treated with botulinum toxin. The access programme encompasses a portfolio of support services, blending existing resources with various new elements that will become available in the future, including training courses and education tools.

For further information about the access programme, please contact: access
Co-ordinator, Ipsen Ltd, 190 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 3XE.
Email: access.coordinator@ipsen.com

Guideline to improve care of Parkinson's patients

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the National Collaborating Centre for Chronic Conditions based at the Royal College of Physicians have launched a guideline on the diagnosis and management of Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease is estimated to affect 100–180 people per 100,000 of the population.

Recommendations include:

- People with suspected Parkinson's disease should be referred quickly and untreated to a specialist.
- The diagnosis of Parkinson's disease should be reviewed regularly and reconsidered if atypical clinical features develop.
- People with Parkinson's disease should



have access to specialist nursing care. Dr Carl Clarke, Clinical Advisor on the Guideline Development Group, said, "The NICE guidance will help to ensure that all patients with Parkinson's disease are seen by an expert. It will also provide support for all patients and carers from Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialists and allow better access to rehabilitation services. It will ensure that expert clinicians have access to the latest tests to diagnose Parkinson's disease, and all appropriate drugs."

Price £28.00 (UK) £30.00 (overseas)
ISBN 1860162835
To order your copy call 020 7935 1174 ext 358 or visit http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs/brochures/pub_print_PD.htm

New booklet about botulinum toxin and spasticity



'Helping you to understand spasticity and the role of botulinum toxin' is a new booklet available from Ipsen Limited, the UK subsidiary of the Ipsen Group, for people with spasticity who have been prescribed botulinum toxin.

The booklet has been produced to help the patient learn more about their condition and also to understand how botulinum toxin can help their spasticity. It addresses what spasticity is and how it is treated, the use of botulinum toxin, and provides a list of some of the organisations that can provide further help and support, such as Different Strokes, HemiHelp, Scope and the Stroke Association.

Botulinum toxin type A (Dysport®) is indicated for focal spasticity including the treatment of arm symptoms associated with focal spasticity in conjunction with physiotherapy, but only in hospital specialist centres with appropriately trained personnel.

Copies of the booklet can be obtained from: Medical Information Department, Ipsen Ltd, 190 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 3XE. Tel: +44 (0)1753 627777, Email: medical.information.uk@ipsen.com

Living With Fatigue

The MS Trust has recently published a book to help people with MS who are affected by fatigue.

Fatigue is one of the commonest symptoms of MS and yet as an 'invisible' symptom, it is often misinterpreted or misunderstood by family, friends or colleagues. The book examines the many factors that can add to fatigue and provides practical ideas and suggestions to help people manage their own fatigue.

'Living With Fatigue' was written in conjunction with Michelle Ennis, an MS specialist occupational therapist, and is illustrated with comments by people with MS who know what it is like to live with fatigue.

Living With Fatigue is free. If you think this book would help any of your patients, they can order copies by sending their postal address to info@mstrust.org.uk or Tel: +44 (0)1462 476700.



