biogen idec

October 2005

Important Prescribing Information

Dear Healthcare Provider:

Biogen Idec is informing you of important new safety information regarding AMEVIVE® (alefacept). This safety information includes a new CONTRAINDICATION and revisions to the content and format of other sections of the labeling.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Biogen Idec, in consultation with FDA, is contraindicating AMEVIVE in patients with HIV disease. This decision is based on the pathophysiology of HIV and the effect of AMEVIVE on T lymphocytes. This contraindication is consistent with the company decision not to study AMEVIVE in HIV positive psoriatic patients due to the theoretical safety concern in this patient population. The new contraindication states:

> AMEVIVE should not be administered to patients infected with HIV. AMEVIVE reduces CD4+ T lymphocyte counts, which might accelerate disease progression or increase complications of disease in these patients (see WARNINGS, LYMPHOPENIA and WARNINGS, Serious Infections).

Numerous other sections of the product labeling have been revised to reflect additional safety experience (see enclosed Prescribing Information).

Biogen Idec is committed to ensuring that AMEVIVE is used safely and effectively. Should you have any questions regarding the use of AMEVIVE, please contact Biogen Idec Medical Information at 1-866-263-8483.

Healthcare professionals should report any serious adverse events suspected to be associated with the use of AMEVIVE to Biogen Idec at 1-866-263-8483. Alternatively, this information may also be reported to FDA's MedWatch Reporting System by telephone at 1-800-FDA-1088, by fax at 1-800-FDA-0178, by mail using the Form 3500 to MedWatch, HF-2, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857; or the internet at http://www.accessdata.FDA.gov/scripts/medwatch.

Sincerely,

Carmen Bozic MD

Carmen Bozic, MD
Senior Director, Drug Safety and Risk Management