

## PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE PATIENT

### Mesna Injection

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, or pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

Throughout this leaflet, Mesna Injection will be called Mesna.

#### What is in this leaflet:

1. What Mesna is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you are given Mesna
3. How Mesna is given
4. Possible side effects
5. How Mesna is stored
6. Contents of the pack and other information

## 1 What Mesna is and what it is used for

The name of your medicine is Mesna.

Mesna is used to help reduce and prevent bleeding in the bladder (haemorrhagic cystitis) caused by cyclophosphamide and ifosfamide. Mesna helps to protect the lining of the bladder from damage caused by these two drugs. The body breaks down these two drugs to form products that can harm the bladder. Mesna works by helping to make these breakdown products less harmful. Mesna should only be given when you are also given cyclophosphamide or ifosfamide.

The damage to your bladder may show up as blood in your urine. Very small amounts of blood may not be seen, so your doctor or nurse will test your urine with a 'dipstick' or microscope to check for blood. If a larger amount of blood is in your urine, you will notice that it is red and very occasionally you may be able to see blood clots in it.

## 2 What you need to know before you are given Mesna

#### You will not be given Mesna if:

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to Mesna or any of the other ingredients (listed in section 6). An allergic reaction can include shortness of breath, wheezing, rash, itching or swelling of the face and lips.

If you are not sure if you are allergic talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before having Mesna.

#### Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before you are given Mesna if:

- you have any problems with your immune systems called 'autoimmune' disease, such as rheumatoid arthritis or lupus, where your body's immune system attacks itself. Patients with an autoimmune disease treated with cyclophosphamide and Mesna could have an increased risk of allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions.
- you have experienced any side effects in the past when given a thiol-containing compound as there could be an increased risk of experiencing side-effects with Mesna. Examples of thiol-containing medicines are amifostine (used to reduce the toxicity of some chemotherapy products), penicillamine (used to treat rheumatoid arthritis) and captopril (used to treat hypertension or heart failure).

If any of these applies to you your doctor will only give you Mesna following careful consideration of the risks and benefits to you.

#### Using other medicines

Mesna is given with ifosfamide and cyclophosphamide. It does not react with these medicines, and is not known to react with any others.

However, always tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines. This includes medicines you have obtained without a prescription.

#### Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

Mesna is only taken with ifosfamide and cyclophosphamide. If you are pregnant and your doctor thinks that you need treatment with these medicines, you will also need to have Mesna. Discuss pregnancy with your doctor before having this medicine.

Do not breast-feed while being treated with these medicines.

#### Tests while you are being given Mesna

Mesna does not prevent the damage to the lining of the bladder in all patients. Your doctor or nurse will want to check your urine regularly for blood with a special 'dipstick' or look at it under a microscope.

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are having any other urine tests because your medicines can affect the results. 'Dipstick' and other types of tests frequently used to monitor diabetes can be used to detect 'ketones' or Vitamin C levels in your urine. Mesna can interfere with these types of urine tests.

Mesna can also interfere with the results of certain laboratory tests for the creatine phosphokinase (CPK) enzyme. Your doctor or nurse are aware of this interference and different test methods will be used while you are receiving Mesna.

#### Mesna with food, drink and alcohol

Food does not affect the absorption and urinary elimination of Mesna.

#### Driving and using machines

Some of the side effects of treatment with Mesna might affect your ability to drive and use machines safely. Your doctor will decide if it is safe for you to do so.

#### Important information about some of the ingredients of Mesna

This medicinal product contains approximately 59 mg of sodium per 400 mg of Mesna. To be taken into consideration by patients on a controlled sodium diet.

#### What to do if you see a different doctor, or have to go to hospital

If you see any other doctor or have to go to hospital for any reason, tell them what medicines you are taking. Do not take any other medicines unless your doctor knows you are taking Mesna.

## 3 How Mesna is given

#### Taking this medicine

Mesna can be given as an injection or by mouth.

- When Mesna is given by injection, it will be given to you by a doctor or nurse. They will check the injection solution is not discoloured, hazy or contain any particles before it is given to you.
- When Mesna is given by mouth, it will be mixed in a flavoured drink such as orange juice or cola which will make it taste pleasant and easier to swallow.
- While you are taking Mesna you should drink enough fluid every day to maintain a urine output of 100 ml per hour.
- This helps to dilute your urine and keeps a good flow of urine. It will help to protect your bladder. You should pass urine (empty your bladder) as normal when you need to. Do not try to change your usual pattern.

#### The recommended usual dose

- Your doctor will decide how much of the medicine you will need and when you will need it. Always take the medicine exactly as your doctor tells you.
- The dose will depend on:
  - the dose and timing of your treatment with ifosfamide or cyclophosphamide
  - if ifosfamide or cyclophosphamide is being given to you as tablets or injection
  - if you suffer from water infections (urinary tract infections)
  - if you have ever had signs of bladder damage from Ifosfamide or Cyclophosphamide before
  - if you have had radiation therapy near your bladder.

#### Use in children

Children generally urinate more frequently than adults. For children your doctor may need to shorten the interval between doses and/or increase the number of individual doses.

#### If you are not sure how you will be given your injection or when you should drink it, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

#### If you take more Mesna than you should

It is unlikely that you will be given more Mesna as an injection than you should, because it will be given to you by a trained and qualified person. They would stop the injection straightaway if too much was given.

If you are drinking it, and think you have had too much or if a child has swallowed any of your medicine, talk to a doctor or go to a hospital straight away. Always take the labelled medicine container with you whether or not there is any medicine left.

Taking too much of Mesna can cause symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, headache, fatigue, limb and joint pains, rash, flushing, low blood pressure, slow or irregular heartbeat, feeling of pins and needles like tingling, fever, and breathing difficulties.

A specific antidote treatment for Mesna overdose is not known.

#### If you forget to take Mesna

It is very important to have Mesna at the times your doctor has told you:

these times will have been carefully worked out to make sure that your bladder is fully protected against damage.

- If you are being given an injection by a doctor or nurse, it is very unlikely that you will miss a dose. If you think that you have missed an injection, talk to your doctor or nurse as soon as possible.
- If you are being given Mesna as drink and you miss a dose, drink it as soon as you remember and talk to your doctor or nearest hospital immediately for advice.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

## 4 Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Some of these side effects may be caused by cyclophosphamide or ifosfamide rather than Mesna, as they are always taken together.

#### Tell your doctor straight away, if you notice any of the following side effects, you may need urgent medical attention:

- The most severe adverse reactions associated with use of Mesna are:
  - Anaphylaxis. Signs of this would be shortness of breath, wheezing, rash, itching or swelling of the face and lips (hypersensitivity). Severe allergic reactions could lead to difficulty in breathing or shock, with a possible fatal outcome (anaphylactic shock, anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reaction).

- Bullous skin reactions which are life threatening conditions which cause:
  - rash,
  - ulcers,
  - sore throat,
  - fever,
  - conjunctivitis,
  - blistering of the skin.
- Drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) which is a life threatening hypersensitivity reaction to drugs which can cause:
  - rash,
  - fever,
  - pain and swelling of internal organs,
  - swollen and tender lymph nodes,
  - changes in blood cells (eosinophilia).
- The most frequently occurring adverse reactions associated with use of Mesna, are:
  - feeling sick, headache, diarrhoea,
  - fever, flushing, rash,
  - infusion site reactions such as pain, swelling, itching, redness or rash around the injection site,
  - waves of sudden abdomen or stomach pain (colic),
  - light headedness, lack of energy, tiredness,
  - flu-like illness.

If you are actually sick (vomit) after taking Mesna as a drink, you may need to have Mesna by injection instead.

#### Other possible side effects include:

##### Blood and Lymphatic System

- swollen/enlarged lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy).

##### Metabolism and Nutrition

- decreased appetite,
- feeling dehydrated.

##### Psychiatric

- insomnia,
- nightmares.

##### Nervous System

- dizziness,
- fainting (syncope),
- sensation of tickling, tingling, burning, pricking (paresthesia),
- increased or abnormally painful sensitivity to touch (hyperesthesia),
- reduced sensitivity to touch (hypoesthesia),
- disturbance in paying attention.

##### Eyes

- blurred sight,
- sensitivity to light,
- inflammation of the eye (conjunctivitis).

##### Heart and Circulation

- changes in your heartbeat (palpitation),
- faster heart beat (tachycardia),
- low blood pressure (hypotension).

##### Lungs

- nasal congestion,
- cough,
- severe, sharp pain when breathing in (pleuritic pain),
- dry mouth,
- difficulty in breathing or wheezing (bronchospasm),
- shortness of breath (dyspnea),
- vocal cord discomfort (laryngeal discomfort),
- nosebleeds (epistaxis),
- severe difficulty breathing (respiratory distress),
- decrease levels of oxygen in your body (hypoxia).

##### Digestive system

- irritation of the lining of the mouth and digestive system (mucosal irritation),
- flatulence,
- burning pain in the area of the stomach,
- constipation,
- bleeding gums.

##### Liver

- increased levels of certain proteins produced by your liver called enzymes (increased transaminases). Your doctor will do blood tests to test for these.

##### Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue

- itching (pruritus),
- excessive sweating (hyperhidrosis),
- itchy, red rash which can develop in to sores (erythema multiforme, erythema),
- ulceration or blistering,
- swelling of the deeper layers of the skin, caused by a build-up of fluid (angioedema),
- skin rash notable for pale red, raised, itchy bumps (urticaria),
- burning sensation.

##### Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue

- muscle or joint pain (myalgia, arthralgia),
- back pain,
- pain in hands or feet (pain in extremity),
- jaw pain.

##### Renal and Urinary

- painful urination (dysuria),
- kidney failure (acute renal failure).

##### General Disorders and Administrative Site Conditions

- chills (rigors),
- chest pain,
- swelling of the face (face oedema),
- swelling of tissues, usually in the lower limbs, due to the accumulation of fluids (oedema peripheral),
- muscle weakness (Asthenia).

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly (see details below). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## UK

### Yellow Card Scheme

[www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard)

## 5 How Mesna is stored

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Do not store the ampoules above 30°C. Keep them in the outer carton to protect them from light.
- If Mesna has been mixed for drinking, store the mixture in a fridge in a sealed container for no longer than 24 hours.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. If you have some Mesna in a drink left over, take them back to your hospital. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6 Contents of the pack and other information

### What Mesna contains

- The active substance is mesna and each ampoule contains 400 mg in 4 ml or 1000 mg in 10 ml.
- The other ingredients are: Disodium edetate, sodium hydroxide, sterile water (called 'water for injections').

### What Mesna looks like and contents of the pack

The injection is a clear, colourless, sterile solution and is supplied in 4 ml and 10 ml clear glass ampoules. Each carton contains 15 ampoules.

### Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

The Marketing Authorisation holder is:

**Baxter Healthcare Ltd**

Caxton Way

Thetford

Norfolk

IP24 3SE

United Kingdom

Send all enquiries to this address.

Mesna is manufactured by:

**Baxter Oncology GmbH**

Kantstrasse 2

33790 Halle/Westfalen

Germany

**This leaflet was last revised in 01/2019**

**For information about Mesna Injection or to request this leaflet in formats such as audio or large print please contact the Marketing Authorisation Holder: Tel: 01635 206345.**

Baxter is a trademark of Baxter International Inc.