



### Drug Therapies to Treat MS

There are a number of disease-modifying drug therapies approved to treat MS. These therapies are not cures for MS but they can slow the progression of the disease and lessen symptoms. Always talk with your neurologist to determine which treatment would be the best option for you.

Brand Name	Generic Name	Distributor	Overview	Good News	Possible Side Effects
Avonex www.avonex.com	Interferon beta-1a	Biogen-Idec	For the treatment of relapsing forms of MS, and for a single clinical episode if MRI features consistent with MS are also present.	AVONEX can help many people with relapsing-remitting MS maintain <i>active and independent lives</i> . <i>Source: avonex.com</i>	Flu-like symptoms following injection, which lessen over time for many. Less common: depression, mild anemia, elevated liver enzymes, allergic reactions, heart problems.
Betaseron www.betaseron.com	Interferon beta-1b	Berlex Laboratories, Inc.	For the treatment of relapsing forms of MS and secondary-progressive MS with relapses.	Treatment with BETASERON at the first event may lower a patient's risk of developing clinically definite MS by up to 60%. <i>Source: betaseron.com</i>	Flu-like symptoms following injection, which lessen over time for many. Injection site reactions, about 5% of which need medical attention. Less common: allergic reactions, depression, elevated liver enzymes, low white blood cell counts.

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Copaxone www.copaxone.com	Glatiramer acetate	TEVA Neuroscience, Inc.	For the treatment of relapsing-remitting MS.	COPAXONE® effectively reduces relapses by 29% in people with RRMS. <sup>1</sup> Fewer relapses may mean more time to do the things you enjoy! <i>Source: copaxone.com</i>	Injection site reactions. Less common: vasodilation (dilation of blood vessels); chest pain; a reaction immediately after injection, which includes anxiety, chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, and flushing. This lasts 15-30 minutes, passes without treatment, and has no known long-term effects.
Rebif www.rebif.com	interferon beta-1a	Serono, Inc.	For the treatment of relapsing-remitting MS.	Over [a two year study], Rebif was shown to reduce the activity and area of brain lesions on MRI, reduce the frequency of relapses, and delay disability progression. <i>Source: rebif.com</i>	Flu-like symptoms following injection, which lessen over time for many. Injection site reactions. Less common: Liver abnormalities, depression, allergic reactions, and low red or white blood cell counts.

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Tysabri www.tysabri.com	natalizumab	Biogen Idec & Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	For the treatment of relapsing forms of MS as a monotherapy. Generally recommended for patients who have had inadequate response to, or are unable to tolerate, other MS therapies.	TYSABRI® is indicated as monotherapy for the treatment of patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis to delay the accumulation of physical disability and reduce the frequency of clinical exacerbations. <i>Source: tysabri.com</i>	Headache, fatigue, urinary tract infections, depression, lower respiratory tract infections, joint pain, and chest discomfort. Less common: allergic or hypersensitivity reactions within two hours of infusion (dizziness, fever, rash, itching, nausea, flushing, low blood pressure, difficulty breathing, chest pain).

**Immunosuppressant Drug**

Brand Name	Generic Name	Distributor	Overview	Good News	Side Effects
Novantrone www.novantrone.com	Mitoxantrone	Serono, Inc.	For treatment of worsening relapsing-remitting MS and for progressive relapsing or secondary-progressive MS.	Among most MS patients whose illness is rapidly progressing and worsening in spite of the therapies they have been on, Novantrone can help slow and reduce the progression of disability. This can help preserve your independence.	Blue-green urine 24 hours after administration; infections, bone marrow suppression (fatigue, bruising, low blood cell counts), nausea, hair thinning, bladder infections, mouth sores. Patients must be monitored for serious liver and heart damage.

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