



Mayzent<sup>®</sup>

0.25 mg, 1 mg and 2 mg film-coated tablets (siponimod)

# Physician's Checklist

Important points to remember  
before, during and after treatment with  
Mayzent

▼ This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions.



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## Adverse drug reactions

Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions (side effects) and medication errors may be reported using the Medicines Authority ADR reporting form, which is available online at <http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal> and sent by post or email to;

**P:** Pharmacovigilance Section at Post-Licensing Directorate, Medicines Authority, Sir Temi Zammit Buildings, Malta Life Sciences Park, San Gwann. SGN 3000.

**E:** [postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt](mailto:postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt)

Healthcare Professionals may also report any adverse events associated with the use of Mayzent to Novartis Pharma Services Inc., Representative Office, Malta, by phone on +356 21222872, online on [www.novartis.com/report](http://www.novartis.com/report) or by e-mail at [drug\\_safety.malta@novartis.com](mailto:drug_safety.malta@novartis.com)

Marketing Authorization Holder: Novartis Europharm Limited, Vista Building, Elm Park, Merrion Road, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Local Representative: Novartis Pharma Services Inc., Representative Office Malta.

Tel No.: +356 21222872

**For electronic copies of this Educational Material, please refer to the Malta Medicines Authority website - <http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/rmm> - and download the required material with the latest date.**

# Introduction

This checklist provides essential information on important risks associated with Mayzent® treatment and the activities required to minimise these risks.

A Patient and caregiver guide, and a Pregnancy reminder card for Women of childbearing potential have also been developed as part of the risk minimisation plan, and may be used to inform your discussion with the patient.

# Therapeutic indication

Mayzent® is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS) with active disease evidenced by relapses or imaging features of inflammatory activity.

# Considerations for patient selection

## Contraindications

Mayzent® is contradicted in patients who have:

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance, soya or to any of the excipients listed in the SmPC
- Immunodeficiency syndrome
- History of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) or cryptococcal meningitis (CM)
- Active malignancies
- Severe liver impairment (Child-Pugh class C)
- In the previous 6 months had a myocardial infarction (MI), unstable angina pectoris, stroke/transient ischaemic attack (TIA), decompensated heart failure (requiring inpatient treatment), or New York Heart Association (NYHA) class III/IV heart failure
- A history of second-degree Mobitz type II atrioventricular (AV) block, third-degree AV block, sino-atrial heart block or sick-sinus syndrome, if they do not wear a pacemaker
- A homozygous CYP2C9\*3 (CYP2C9\*3\*3) genotype (poor metaboliser)
- Become pregnant and in women of childbearing potential not using effective contraception

## Not recommended

Treatment with Mayzent<sup>®</sup> is not recommended in the following patients.

Consider Mayzent use only after performing risk/benefit analysis and consulting a cardiologist to determine the most appropriate monitoring strategy and possibility of switch to a non-heart rate lowering drug before initiation of treatment.

- History of symptomatic bradycardia or recurrent syncope
- Uncontrolled hypertension
- Severe untreated sleep apnoea
- QTc prolongation > 500 msec
- Taking the following medications at treatment initiation
  - class Ia (quinidine, procainamide) or Class III (amiodarone, sotalol) antiarrhythmic drugs
  - calcium channel blockers (e.g. verapamil, diltiazem)
  - other medications (e.g. ivabradine or digoxin) which are known to decrease the heart rate

# Mayzent® treatment recommendations

The checklists and schematic that follow are intended to assist in the management of patients on Mayzent®. Key steps and considerations while initiating, continuing or discontinuing treatment are provided.

## Prior to initiating treatment

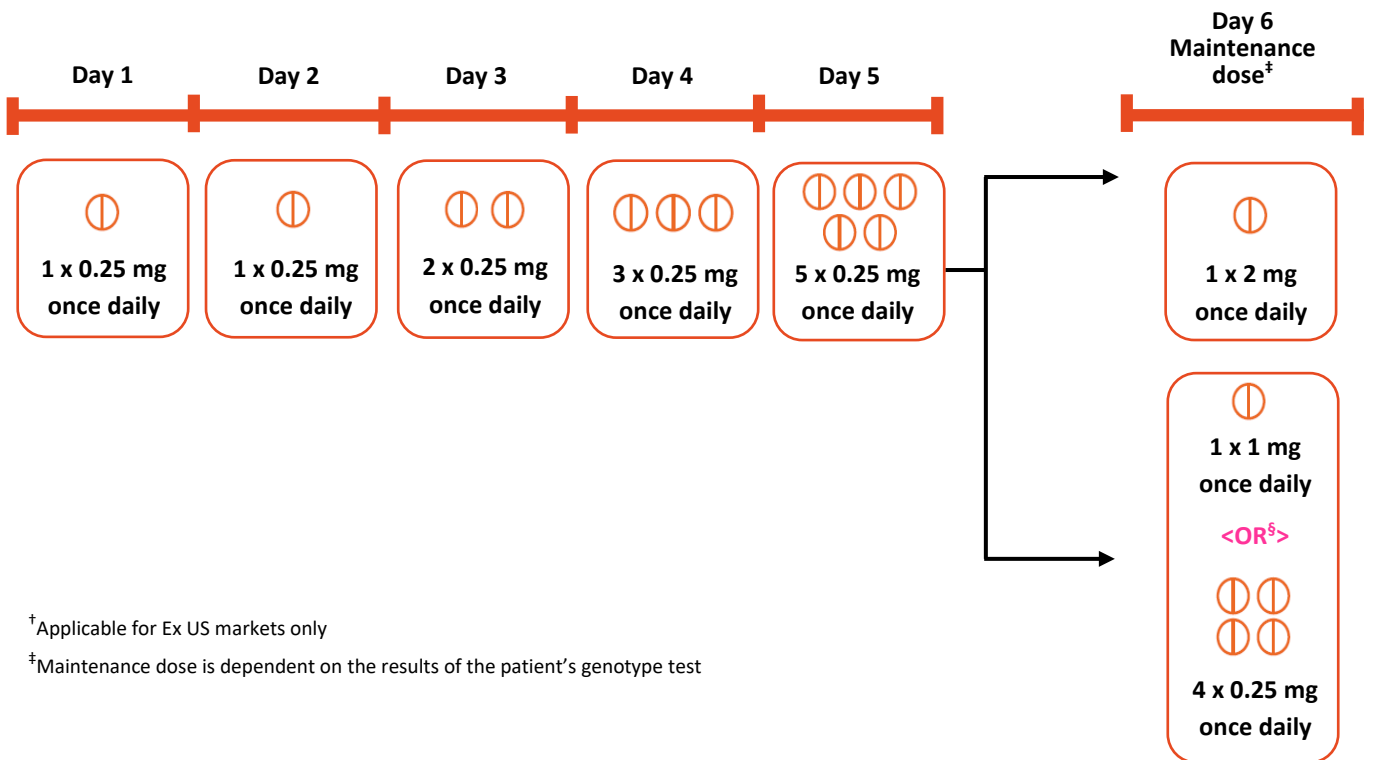
- Ensure to select patients according to contraindications and recommendations for non-treatment
- Identify the CYP2C9 genotype of the patient to determine the correct Mayzent® maintenance dose. Genotyping can be conducted with a DNA sample obtained via blood or saliva (buccal swab) using Sanger sequencing or PCR-based methods identifying variant alleles for CYP2C9
  - Patients with CYP2C9\*3\*3 should not receive Mayzent®
  - Patients with CYP2C9\*1\*3 or CYP2C9\*2\*3 should receive the 1 mg maintenance dose (following the titration schedule)
  - All other patients (CYP2C9\*1\*1, \*1\*2, \*2\*2) can receive 2 mg (following the titration schedule)
- Check vitals and conduct a baseline electrocardiogram (ECG) in patients with a history of sinus bradycardia (heart rate [HR] <55 bpm), first or second-degree (Mobitz type I) AV block, or history of myocardial infarction or heart failure if not contraindicated
- Caution should be taken/exercised in elderly patients with multiple comorbidities, or advanced disease/disability (due to possible increased risks of events such as infections or bradyarrhythmia during treatment initiation)
- Check availability of a recent complete blood count (CBC) and liver function tests (i.e. within 6 months or after discontinuation of prior therapy)
- Do not initiate treatment with Mayzent® in patients with severe active infection until infection is resolved
- Take caution if patients are concomitantly treated with anti-neoplastic, immunomodulatory or immunosuppressive therapies (including corticosteroids) due to the risk of additive immune system effects
- Instruct patients to report signs and symptoms of infections immediately during treatment
- Check varicella zoster virus (VZV) antibody status in patients without a physician-confirmed history of varicella or without documentation of a full course of vaccination against VZV. If tested negative, vaccination is recommended and treatment with Mayzent® should be postponed for 1 month to allow the full effect of vaccination to occur
- Counsel patients to report visual disturbances at any time while on treatment
- Arrange an ophthalmologic evaluation prior to initiating therapy in patients with diabetes mellitus, uveitis or underlying/co-existing retinal disease
- Perform skin examination and be vigilant for skin malignancies
- Do not initiate treatment in patients with macular oedema until resolution

- A negative pregnancy test result is required prior to initiation of treatment in women of childbearing potential
- Counsel women of childbearing potential about the serious risks of Mayzent® to the foetus and the need to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 10 days following discontinuation of treatment facilitated by the pregnancy-specific patient reminder card

- Provide patients with a Patient and Caregiver Guide
- Women of childbearing potential should also be provided with the Pregnancy Reminder Card
- Be familiar with the Mayzent® Prescribing Information
- Inform patients of the importance of reporting adverse events to either their doctor or directly to Novartis

### Treatment initiation schedule<sup>†</sup>

Initiation of treatment with Mayzent® results in a transient decrease in heart rate. For this reason, a 5-day up-titration scheme is required before a maintenance dose of 2 mg once daily can be achieved from Day 6 onwards (see figure). A titration pack containing 12 film-coated tablets in a wallet should be provided. In patients with a CYP2C9\*1\*3 or CYP2C9\*2\*3 genotype, the recommended maintenance dose is 1 mg once daily (starting on Day 6). Titration and maintenance doses can be taken with or without food.



#### Important information

If a dose is missed on any day during the first 6 days of treatment, repeat the titration schedule with a new titration pack. Similarly, if treatment (maintenance dose) is interrupted for 4 or more consecutive days, treatment must be re-initiated with a new titration pack.

## Treatment initiation: recommendations for patients with certain pre-existing cardiac conditions

Mayzent® causes transient heart rate reduction and may cause indirect AV conduction delays following initiation of treatment. Treatment initiation with a titration phase is usually well tolerated in most patients.

Patients with:

- sinus bradycardia (heart rate < 55 bpm),
- first- or second-degree [Mobitz type I] AV block or
- a history of myocardial infarction (MI) or heart failure if not contraindicated

should be observed for signs and symptoms of bradycardia for a period of 6 hours after the first dose of Mayzent®. Measurement of hourly vitals during this period and ECG measurements both pre- and 6 hours post-dose are recommended. If necessary, the decrease in heart rate induced by Mayzent® can be reversed by parenteral doses of atropine or isoprenaline.



## During treatment

- An ophthalmological evaluation 3–4 months after treatment initiation is recommended
  - Conduct periodic ophthalmologic evaluations in patients with diabetes mellitus, uveitis, or a history of retinal disorders
  - Counsel patients to report any visual disturbance during treatment
- Assessments of complete blood count are recommended 3–4 months following treatment initiation, and at least yearly thereafter, as well as in case(s) of signs of infection
  - If absolute lymphocyte counts  $< 0.2 \times 10^9/L$ , reduce siponimod dose to 1 mg
  - If absolute lymphocyte counts  $< 0.2 \times 10^9/L$  in a patient already receiving siponimod 1 mg, temporarily stop treatment with siponimod until levels reaches  $0.6 \times 10^9/L$ . Re-initiation with siponimod may then be considered
- Monitor patients carefully for signs and symptoms of infections:
  - Prompt diagnostic evaluation should be performed in patients with symptoms and signs consistent with encephalitis, meningitis or meningoencephalitis; siponimod treatment should be suspended until exclusion; appropriate treatment of infection, if diagnosed, should be initiated
  - Cases of herpes viral infection (including cases of meningitis or meningoencephalitis caused by varicella zoster viruses) have occurred with siponimod at any time during treatment
  - Cases of cryptococcal meningitis (CM) have been reported for siponimod
  - Cases of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) have been reported for S1P receptor modulators, including siponimod, and other therapies for MS. Physicians should be vigilant for clinical symptoms (e.g., weakness, visual changes, new/worsening symptoms of MS) or MRI findings suggestive of PML. If PML is suspected, treatment should be suspended until PML has been excluded. If PML is confirmed, treatment with siponimod should be discontinued
- Exercise caution when administering concomitant treatment with anti-neoplastic, immune-modulating or immunosuppressive therapies (including corticosteroids) due to the risk of additive immune system effects
- Be vigilant for skin malignancies while on treatment with siponimod
  - Perform skin examination every 6 to 12 months taking into consideration clinical judgement
  - Careful skin examinations should be maintained with longer treatment duration. Patients should be referred to a dermatologist if suspicious lesions are detected
  - Patients should not receive concomitant phototherapy with UV-B radiation or PUVA-phototherapy
- Should a patient develop any unexpected neurological or psychiatric symptoms/signs or accelerated neurological deterioration, promptly schedule a complete physical and neurological examination and consider an MRI
- If patients develop symptoms suggestive of hepatic dysfunction, request a liver enzymes check. Discontinue treatment if significant liver injury is confirmed
- Counsel women of childbearing potential regularly about the serious risks of Mayzent® to the foetus
- Discontinue treatment if a patient becomes pregnant or is planning to become pregnant
  - Mayzent® should be stopped at least 10 days before a pregnancy is planned. When stopping Mayzent® therapy, the possible return of disease activity should be considered



- Counsel the patient in case of inadvertent pregnancy. If a woman becomes pregnant whilst on treatment, they should be advised of potential serious risks to the foetus and an ultrasonography examination should be performed
- Should a pregnancy occur during treatment with Mayzent® or within 10 days following discontinuation of treatment with siponimod, regardless of it being associated with an adverse outcome, please report it to your doctor immediately or to Novartis by calling +356 21222872 or visiting [www.novartis.com/report](http://www.novartis.com/report)

## After discontinuation

- Repeat titration schedule with a new titration pack if treatment was discontinued by mistake and:
  - A titration dose is missed on any day during the first 6 days
  - OR
  - Treatment is interrupted for  $\geq 4$  consecutive days during the maintenance phase
  - First-dose monitoring in specific patients (patients with sinus bradycardia (HR < 55 bpm), first- or second-degree AV block, or a history of MI or heart failure) will also need to be repeated
- After discontinuation, Mayzent® remains in the blood for up to 10 days
  - Exercise caution when starting other therapies during this time due to risk of additive effects
- If siponimod is discontinued, the possibility of recurrence of high disease activity should be considered and the patient monitored accordingly
- Instruct patients to report signs and symptoms of infections immediately for up to one month after treatment discontinuation
- Counsel female patients that effective contraception is needed for at least 10 days after discontinuation. Should a pregnancy occur within 10 days after stopping Mayzent®, regardless of it being associated with an adverse event or not, please report it to your doctor immediately or to Novartis by calling +356 21222872 or visiting [www.novartis.com/report](http://www.novartis.com/report)

Novartis has put in place a Pregnancy outcomes Intensive Monitoring (PRIM) programme, which is a registry based on enhanced follow-up mechanisms to collect information about pregnancy in patients exposed to siponimod immediately before or during pregnancy and on infant outcomes 12 months post-delivery

## Further information

This educational material is a part of the conditions of the Marketing Authorisation

For more detailed guidance on Mayzent®, please refer to the Prescribing information: Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) <available at <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/medicines/human/EPAR/mayzent>

The Patient and Caregiver Guide, the Pregnancy Reminder Card and the Physician's Checklist are all available at [Medicines Authority \(govt.gov.mt\)](http://www.govt.gov.mt)

**Novartis Neuroscience**

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