

NEWSLETTER

Malta Medicines Authority

COOL AIR - TAKE CARE



What causes respiratory tract infections?

Bacteria or viruses can enter through the nose, throat or lungs and infect the body.

How do germs spread?

- Having contact with droplets from an infected individual when a person coughs or sneezes
- Touching contaminated surfaces and then touching the nose, mouth, or eyes
- Spending a long time in a closed space with someone who is infected.

Help protect yourself and others

The common cold, influenza, and bronchitis are the most common.

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Use tissues and dispose of them properly
- Stay home when feeling unwell
- Keep well hydrated and get enough rest

When and why is it important to consult a doctor?

Speak to your doctor to determine the cause of your illness and whether you need antibiotics. Antibiotics treat bacterial infections, not viral infections such as the common cold, flu or COVID-19.

Taking antibiotics when they are not needed won't help you recover faster and may contribute to antibiotic resistance, making bacterial infections harder to treat in the future.

If symptoms are severe or worsening, or if you experience difficulty breathing, chest pain, or a persistent high fever, seek medical advice.



Emicizumab for Haemophilia A

What is Haemophilia?

Haemophilia is an inherited bleeding disorder in which the blood does not clot properly because certain clotting proteins are deficient or do not work properly.

What are the two main types of haemophilia?

The two main types are Haemophilia A and Haemophilia B. Haemophilia A is more common, accounting for about 80–85% of haemophilia cases.

What is the main difference between Haemophilia A and B?

The difference is the deficient clotting factor:

- Haemophilia A: deficiency of clotting factor VIII (8)
- Haemophilia B: deficiency of clotting factor IX (9)

How is Haemophilia treated?

For both A and B:

- Clotting factor replacement therapy
- Tissue factor pathway inhibitors
- Fitusiran
- Gene therapy

For A only:

- Emicizumab

What is Emicizumab?

It is a prescribed medicine used to prevent or reduce bleeding episodes in adults and children with Hemophilia A.

How does it help?

It helps blood to clot, preventing or reducing excessive bleeding.

Why is it different?

Unlike traditional treatments that require intravenous infusions, Emicizumab is given as a weekly injection.

What are the benefits?

-  Less frequent treatment
-  Fewer hospital visits
-  Potential for treatment at home
-  Greater independence and improved quality of life



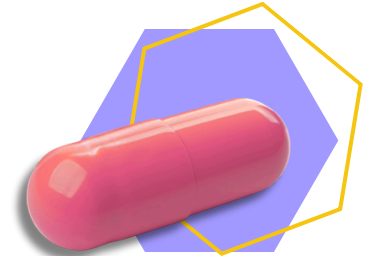
The first patients have started treatment at Mater Dei Hospital, with the service being gradually expanded over the coming months.

Originator vs Generic

Understanding the difference



DIFFERENT BRAND
SAME MEDICINE



Originator

An originator is the first version of a medicine and it is developed by a pharmaceutical company.

The company invests significant time and money in research and development and is granted a patent that protects the production for a certain period.

This investment is one of the reasons why the originator medicine may cost more.



Generic

A generic medicine is manufactured to be the same as an already authorised originator medicine, following patent expiry.

The generic medicine contains the same active ingredient of the originator, but may contain other ingredients, such as colours, flavours or fillers.

It is required to have the same dose and form type.

Why are other ingredients different?

These differences do not affect the medicine's quality, safety or effectiveness, but make the medicine easier to produce, more stable, or less expensive to manufacture.

Why do generic medicines cost less?

Generic medicines are often less expensive because the research and development for the original medicine have already been completed.

Does lower price mean lower quality?

No. Generic medicines meet the same high standards for quality, safety and effectiveness as the original medicine.

Can they be dispensed interchangeably?

Generic medicines work in the same way as the original medicine and may be dispensed as a more affordable alternative.

Upcoming ...

Biosimilar vs Reference medicine

FOR MORE INFO...

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