

The Medical Letter®

On Drugs and Therapeutics

Published by The Medical Letter, Inc. • 145 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801 • A Nonprofit Publication

IN THIS ISSUE (starts on next page)

**In Brief: *Otrexup* – A Single-Use Auto-Injector Formulation
of Methotrexate.....p 28**

Important Copyright Message

The Medical Letter® publications are protected by US and international copyright laws. Forwarding, copying or any distribution of this material is prohibited.

Sharing a password with a non-subscriber or otherwise making the contents of this site available to third parties is strictly prohibited.

By accessing and reading the attached content I agree to comply with US and international copyright laws and these terms and conditions of The Medical Letter, Inc.

**For further information click: [Subscriptions, Site Licenses, Reprints](#)
or call customer service at: 800-211-2769**

FORWARDING OR COPYING IS A VIOLATION OF U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT LAWS

The Medical Letter®

On Drugs and Therapeutics

Published by The Medical Letter, Inc. • 145 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801 • A Nonprofit Publication

Volume 56 (Issue 1439)
March 31, 2014

www.medicalletter.org

IN BRIEF

***Otrexup* – A Single-Use Auto-Injector Formulation of Methotrexate**

The FDA has approved a new injectable formulation of methotrexate (*Otrexup* – Antares) for use in rheumatoid arthritis and polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis, and for severe psoriasis in adults. On its web site (www.otrexup.com), the manufacturer states: “*Otrexup* is the first subcutaneous (SC) methotrexate (MTX) for self-administration delivered once weekly by auto-injector.” Methotrexate has been available as a once-weekly injection (IM or SC) for these indications for many years,¹ but not specifically for self-administration and not in a single-dose auto-injector. Methotrexate is generally given orally, but injectable formulations may be helpful for patients who have adverse gastrointestinal effects from the oral formulation or lose benefit over time because of poor absorption.

Otrexup auto-injectors are available in strengths of 10, 15, 20, and 25 mg of methotrexate per 0.4 mL. The usual dosage of methotrexate for patients with rheumatoid arthritis ranges from 7.5 to 25 mg once weekly. *Otrexup* should be administered SC in the abdomen or thigh. Four 25-mg auto-injectors cost \$548.00, compared to \$5.00 for a single 4-mL vial of generic methotrexate containing 25 mg/mL.² Nevertheless, some patients with rheumatoid arthritis who find it difficult to draw up methotrexate solution from a vial and inject it with a syringe may prefer *Otrexup*.

1. Drugs for rheumatoid arthritis. *Treat Guidel Med Lett* 2012; 10:37.
2. Approximate wholesale acquisition cost (WAC). Source: *Analy\$ource*® Monthly (Selected from FDB MedKnowledge™) March 5, 2014. Reprinted with permission by FDB, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2014. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy. Actual retail prices may be higher.

The Medical Letter®

On Drugs and Therapeutics

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Mark Abramowicz, M.D.
EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Gianna Zuccotti, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Harvard Medical School
EDITOR: Jean-Marie Pflomm, Pharm.D.

ASSISTANT EDITORS, DRUG INFORMATION: Susan M. Daron, Pharm.D.,
Corinne Z. Morrison, Pharm.D., Michael P. Viscusi, Pharm.D.

CONSULTING EDITORS: Brinda M. Shah, Pharm.D., F. Peter Swanson, M.D.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

Carl W. Bazil, M.D., Ph.D., Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Vanessa K. Dalton, M.D., M.P.H., University of Michigan Medical School
Eric J. Epstein, M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Jane P. Gagliardi, M.D., M.H.S., F.A.C.P. Duke University School of Medicine
Jules Hirsch, M.D., Rockefeller University
David N. Juurlink, BPhm, M.D., Ph.D., Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Richard B. Kim, M.D., University of Western Ontario
Hans Meinertz, M.D., University Hospital, Copenhagen
Sandip K. Mukherjee, M.D., F.A.C.C., Yale School of Medicine
Dan M. Roden, M.D., Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Esperance A.K. Schaefer, M.D., M.P.H., Harvard Medical School
F. Estelle R. Simons, M.D., University of Manitoba
Neal H. Steigbigel, M.D., New York University School of Medicine
Arthur M. F. Yee, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.R., Weill Medical College of Cornell University

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Amy Faucard

MANAGING EDITOR: Susie Wong

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR: Liz Donohue

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR: Cheryl Brown

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SALES: Gene Carbona

FULFILLMENT & SYSTEMS MANAGER: Cristine Romatowski

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS: Joanne F. Valentino

VICE PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER: Yosef Wissner-Levy

Founded in 1959 by
Arthur Kallet and Harold Aaron, M.D.

Copyright and Disclaimer: The Medical Letter is an independent nonprofit organization that provides health care professionals with unbiased drug prescribing recommendations. The editorial process used for its publications relies on a review of published and unpublished literature, with an emphasis on controlled clinical trials, and on the opinions of its consultants. The Medical Letter is supported solely by subscription fees and accepts no advertising, grants, or donations. No part of the material may be reproduced or transmitted by any process in whole or in part without prior permission in writing. The editors do not warrant that all the material in this publication is accurate and complete in every respect. The editors shall not be held responsible for any damage resulting from any error, inaccuracy, or omission.

Subscription Services

Mailing Address:

The Medical Letter, Inc.
145 Huguenot St. Ste. 312
New Rochelle, NY 10801-7537

Customer Service:

Call: 800-211-2769 or 914-235-0500
Fax: 914-632-1733
Web Site: www.medicalletter.org
E-mail: custserv@medicalletter.org

Permissions:

To reproduce any portion of this issue,
please e-mail your request to:
permissions@medicalletter.org

Subscriptions (US):

1 year - \$98; 2 years - \$189;
3 years - \$279. \$49.00 per year for
students, interns, residents and
fellows in the US and Canada.

E-mail site license inquiries to:

info@medicalletter.org or call
800-211-2769 x315.
Special fees for bulk subscriptions.
Special classroom rates are available.
Back issues are \$12 each. Major credit
cards accepted.

Copyright 2014. ISSN 1523-2859

