

Treatment

# Mayzent<sup>®</sup> (siponimod)

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There are a range of disease-modifying therapies approved for people with multiple sclerosis in Australia. These therapies, also called immunotherapies, work to reduce disease activity in the central nervous system in people with multiple sclerosis.

## What is Mayzent® and how does it work?

Mayzent® is used for the treatment of adults with secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS), the form of multiple sclerosis that can follow on from relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis. People with SPMS experience a gradual worsening of their condition as disability accumulates.

Mayzent® acts on certain types of white blood cells (lymphocytes) which are involved in the immune attack on myelin seen in multiple sclerosis. It binds to special locations (or receptors) on the surface of

the lymphocytes, called sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) receptors. This causes lymphocytes to be retained in the lymph nodes. As a result, the number of lymphocytes circulating in the blood and reaching the brain is decreased, resulting in reduced immune attack on nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

Mayzent® is also able to enter the central nervous system where it can bind to S1P receptors on certain brain cells involved in repairing or slowing down the damage caused by multiple sclerosis.

## How is Mayzent® administered?

Mayzent® is a film-coated tablet taken orally, once daily. Before initiation of treatment with Mayzent® a person's CYP2C9 genotype should be determined to inform whether a 2mg or 1mg maintenance dose is required. Mayzent® should not be used in people with the more rare CYP2C9\*3\*3 genotype. People considered for Mayzent® will not be charged for the costs of the genotype test. Also, before treatment with Mayzent® a blood test may be taken to check the level of white blood cells and liver function. Treatment has to be initiated with a titration pack that lasts for 5 days. The dose titration starts with 0.25mg once daily on day 1 and 2, followed by once daily doses of

0.5mg on day 3 (two tablets of 0.25mg), 0.75mg on day 4 (three tablets of 0.25mg), and 1.25mg on day 5 (five tablets of 0.25mg), to reach the maintenance dose of 2mg Mayzent® starting on day 6. The recommended maintenance dose is 1mg daily for people with the CYP2C9 \*2\*3 or \*1\*3 genotype (for further information on maintenance dosing please see the Consumer Medicine Information). During the first 6 days of treatment initiation, the recommended daily dose should be taken once daily in the morning with or without food.

# What are the possible side effects of Mayzent®?

Mayzent® helps most people with SPMS, but it may have unwanted side effects in some people. All medicines can have side effects. Tell your doctor if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

The most important side effects of Mayzent® include headache, high blood pressure and increases in liver function tests. It may increase the risk of infections, may cause macular oedema (swelling in the back of the eye) and may cause transient decreases in heart rate and a decline in lung function.

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding. You should avoid becoming pregnant while taking Mayzent® and for at least 10 days after you stop taking it. You should not breastfeed while taking Mayzent®.**

**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Mayzent® has not been studied in patients under 18 years.

# How much does Mayzent® cost?

Mayzent® has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for the treatment of patients with secondary progressive MS and is available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Your neurologist will need to obtain an authority to prescribe the medication for you. For details of the criteria required to receive a prescription for Mayzent® treatment through the PBS, please visit the official PBS website at: <https://www.pbs.gov.au/medicine/item/12158X-12160B-12172P>. You will need to click on the red **Authority Required (STREAMLINED)** link.

If you are eligible for medications through the PBS, you will need to pay a contribution fee each time your prescription is dispensed. The Federal Government pays for the remaining cost. The amount of the contribution fee depends upon whether or not you

have a pension or concession card. The amount of this fee is set each year by the Federal Government.

Further information about the PBS, your entitlements and details regarding the PBS safety net (which protects patients and their families requiring a large number of PBS items) is available through the Medicare Australia website at: [www.medicare.gov.au](http://www.medicare.gov.au)

If you are not eligible for Mayzent® through the PBS, for example if you are a visitor from overseas, your neurologist may write a private prescription. In this instance you will have to pay the full cost to the pharmacy that dispenses your medication. You will need to request a quote from your pharmacist for the price of any medication which is not subsidised by the PBS.

# General information

## In Australia, Mayzent® is supplied by:

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd  
54 Waterloo Road  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113

# For more information on multiple sclerosis and other multiple sclerosis treatments

- Speak to your neurologist about what treatment best suits your individual circumstances.
- MS nurses can also provide information, training and ongoing support in managing your immunotherapy.
- We can provide emotional and practical support for every stage of your journey. For more information visit **[www.msplus.org.au](http://www.msplus.org.au)**
- For more information about multiple sclerosis treatments, research, clinical trials and for your state MS organisation visit **[www.msaustralia.org.au](http://www.msaustralia.org.au)**

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## References

1. Consumer Medicine Information - **<https://www.tga.gov.au>** (search for Mayzent)
2. Mayzent® Approved Product Information, Nov 2019
3. MS Research Australia news item regarding siponimod, including links to and details regarding the clinical trials

## Note

MS Plus does not recommend any specific disease-modifying treatment for people living with multiple sclerosis. Decisions about any treatments, taking into consideration the potential benefits and side effects for each individual's circumstances, should be made in careful consultation with the person's neurologist.

The information supplied in this document is collated from material provided by the relevant pharmaceutical company and MS Australia.