

Contact Us Toll Free at 1.866.208.3430

Injection Site Reactions

Education

Injectable medications used in the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis, particularly those that are injected subcutaneously (into the fatty tissue just under the skin), are often associated with “injection site reactions”. These reactions may include: bruising, pain, redness, swelling, itching or tenderness at the injection site. Injection site reactions may begin to subside within weeks to months of starting therapy.

Helpful Tips

- Ice the injection site 30-60 seconds before and 1-5 minutes after injecting.
- Rotate injection sites (do not continue to inject in the same area).
- Record your injection sites in a table, diary, or diagram.
- Clean the site with an alcohol pad and allow the site to dry prior to injection.
- Allow the medication to warm to room temperature prior to injection.
 - Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes prior to injection (if you are using a refrigerated medication).
- Two hours after the injection, check the site for redness, swelling, or tenderness. Contact your doctor if the skin reaction does not resolve.

Treatment Options

- Injection site reactions can also be treated with simple over-the-counter medications. Before trying any over-the-counter medication, be sure to contact your doctor or pharmacist for specific directions and to monitor for any drug interactions. The following medications may be helpful:
 - Ibuprofen
 - Naproxen
 - 1% hydrocortisone cream

For questions or concerns regarding any of the above statements or recommendations, please feel free to contact Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy Toll Free at 1.866.208.3430.

References:

1. Frohman E, Phillips T, Kokel K, Pelt JV, O'Leary S, Gross S et al. Disease-modifying therapy in multiple sclerosis: strategies for optimizing management. *The Neurologist*. 2002; 2:227-236.
2. Wingerchuck DM. Multiple Sclerosis disease-modifying therapies: adverse effect surveillance and management. *Expert Rev Neurother*. 2006 Mar;6(3): 333-46.