

HOW SHOULD I TAKE ARANESP?

- Your doctor will tell you how much and how often you must take Aranesp.
- Your doctor will use the lowest effective dose to control the symptoms of your anemia.
- Aranesp is given as a shot under the skin/ into the fatty part of the skin (subcutaneous) or it may be given as a shot into a vein (Intravenous, IV) during dialysis. The IV route of administration is recommended for adult patients on hemodialysis.
- In some cases, your doctor may recommend that you take iron supplements.
- Your doctor will take regular blood samples to measure how your anemia is responding and may adjust your dose once every four weeks as necessary in order to maintain long term control of your anemia.
- Your blood pressure will also be checked regularly, particularly at the beginning of your treatment.
- Always use this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you.
- Do not use a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose
- If you miss a dose or if you use more Aranesp than you need, call your doctor or pharmacist to find out what to do.

WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE ARANESP?

Do not use Aranesp:

- If you are allergic to Darbepoetin Alfa; any ingredients of this product; or any other medicines, foods, or substances.
- If you have high blood pressure, which is not being controlled.
- If you have a kind of anemia called Pure Red Cell Aplasia (PRCA).
- If you have cancer, talk with your doctor.

HOW SHOULD I STORE AND/OR THROW OUT ARANESP?

- Store in a refrigerator (2°C - 8°C).
- Do not freeze or shake.
- Do not use Aranesp if you think it has been frozen.
- Keep the pre-filled pen in the original carton to protect from light.
- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Throw away needles in a needle/sharp disposal box. Do not reuse needles or other items.
- Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste.
- Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use.

ARANESP® DARBEPOETIN ALFA

Actual product picture

WHAT IS ARANESP AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

Aranesp is a medicine used to treat anemia; a condition in which the blood has a lower-than-normal amount of red blood cells or hemoglobin.

Your doctor might prescribe you Aranesp to treat symptomatic anemia (symptoms may be fatigue, weakness and shortness of breath) that is associated with chronic renal failure (kidney failure) or cancer chemotherapy.

WHAT IS THE ACTIVE INGREDIENT IN ARANESP?

Aranesp contains the active ingredient, Darbepoetin Alfa.

The other ingredients are sodium phosphate monobasic, sodium phosphate dibasic, sodium chloride, polysorbate 80 and water for injections.

My Notes

This section is intentionally left empty to be filled during medication counseling

I AM TAKING ARANESP TO:

Treat my low blood cell count/ anemia due to:

- chronic renal failure (kidney failure)
- cancer chemotherapy

HOW & WHEN I SHOULD TAKE ARANESP:

Prescribed strength & Dosage form:

- Aranesp Single Dose Vials (....) mcg
- Aranesp Single Dose Prefilled Syringe (.....) mcg

Dosage regimen:

Administration route:

- IV
- SQ

FOR HOW LONG I WILL TAKE ARANESP:

Treatment duration:

Refills:

- Refill date:
- Refill quantity:

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF ARANESP AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM?

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you experience any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- A fast heartbeat, Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on one side of the face, or blurred eyesight.
- Feeling confused.
- Cool or pale arm or leg, Trouble walking, Dizziness or passing out, Sweating a lot, Fits (Seizures), Feeling very tired or weak, Pale skin.
- Call your doctor right away if you have signs of a blood clot like chest pain or pressure; coughing up blood; shortness of breath; swelling, warmth, numbness, change of color, or pain in a leg or arm; or trouble speaking or swallowing.
- Get medical help right away if you have signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever); red or irritated eyes; or sores in your mouth, throat, nose, or eyes.