**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

INTRON A Interferon alfa-2b, recombinant for Injection is indicated for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B in patients 1 year of age or older with compensated liver disease who have a history of blood or blood-product exposure and/or are HCV antibody positive.

**Dosing Regimens**

Adapted from data in Intron A, Interferon alfa-2b, recombinant for Injection (Sterile Water for Injection, USP)  (see Dosing Regimens). 

**Dosage in Chronic Hepatitis B**

- 96 weeks: 20 million IU/m² subcutaneously three times per week (TIW)
- 24 weeks: 3 million IU TIW
- 9 weeks: 3 million IU TIW

**Diluent for INTRON A Interferon alfa-2b, recombinant for Injection (Sterile Water for Injection, USP)  (see Dosing Regimens).**

- 1 mg sodium chloride, 0.9% monobasic, and 1.0 mg human albumin.

**Bone marrow toxicity**

Bone marrow toxicity, the median survival time was 22.6 months vs 9.7 months in the placebo group. Among all chronic hepatitis B patients, a total of 14 patients (6%) showed full resolution of symptoms has taken up to 3 weeks in a few severe episodes. Narcotics, hypnotics, or sedatives may be administered to control symptoms.

**Hypersplenism**

Hypersplenism was demonstrated in some patients.

**Driving and/or Navigating**

Any patient who develops ocular symptoms should receive a prompt and complete eye examination.

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**Driving and/or Navigating**

Any patient who develops ocular symptoms should receive a prompt and complete eye examination.
### Dose:

**General**

- Solution 18 MIU multidose 6 MIU/mL IM, SC N/A
- Powder 10 MIU (single dose)* 10 MIU/mL SC N/A
- Pen 5 MIU/dose multidose 25 MIU/mL SC 7.5, 10.0

### Dosage Form Concentration Route

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### Dose adjustment:

- INTRON A should be permanently discontinued for:
  - If severe adverse reactions persist or recur following dosage adjustment, INTRON A should be permanently discontinued.

### Adverse reactions

**Classification:**

- Neutropenia — 10
- Thrombocytopenia — 1
- Anemia — 2
- Diarrhea — 4
- Nausea — 3
- Vomiting — 3
- Rash — 1

**Severity:**

- Grade 1 — 11
- Grade 2 — 1
- Grade 3 — 1
- Grade 4 — 0

**Organ System:**

- **Musculoskeletal System Disorders:**
  - Arthralgia — 1
  - Myalgia — 1
  - Myasthenia — 1

- **Dermatological System Disorders:**
  - Pruritus — 1
  - Urticaria — 1

- **Gastrointestinal System Disorders:**
  - Dyspepsia — 1
  - Nausea — 1
  - Vomiting — 1

- **Hematological System Disorders:**
  - Anemia — 1
  - Thrombocytopenia — 1

- **Hepatic System Disorders:**
  - Gastrointestinal bleeding — 1

- **Nervous System Disorders:**
  - Headache — 2
  - Dizziness — 1
  - Somnolence — 1

- **Respiratory System Disorders:**
  - Dyspnea — 1

- **Urogenital System Disorders:**
  - Amenorrhea — 1
  - Uterine bleeding — 1

### PRECAUTIONS—Laboratory Tests

**Markers of Liver Function:**

- ALT: Baseline ≥5x ULN, or ALT increase ≥2x ULN, or ALT >500 IU/L (SI: >5.5 mmol/L).

**Markers of Renal Function:**

- Serum creatinine: Baseline ≥2.0 mg/dL (SI: >176.5 µmol/L).

**Markers of Neutrophils:**

- Neutrophils: Baseline ≤1000/mm³ (SI: ≤1.0 x 10⁹/L).

**Markers of Platelets:**

- Platelets: Baseline ≤50,000/mm³ (SI: ≤5.0 x 10⁹/L).

**Markers of Erythrocytes:**

- Hemoglobin: Baseline ≤10 g/dL (SI: ≤100 g/L).

**Markers of Blood Coagulation:**

- Prothrombin time: Baseline ≥3 sec.

**Markers of Blood Urea Nitrogen:**

- Baseline ≥4.5 mg/dL (SI: ≥41.8 µmol/L).

**Markers of Ionized Calcium:**

- Baseline ≥0.8 mg/dL (SI: ≥20 µmol/L).

**Markers of Urinary Protein:**

- Baseline ≥300 mg/24 hours (SI: ≥3.0 g/24 hours).

**Markers of Urinary Electrolyte Excretion:**

- Baseline ≥10 mEq/24 hours.

### Other Adverse Reactions

- Other frequent adverse reactions included:
  - Headache (5% of patients), myalgia (4%), rigors (4%), and other severe "flu-like" symptoms which were experienced by 96% of patients.

### Treatment-Related Adverse Experiences by Indication

For pediatric patients, the most frequently reported adverse events were those commonly associated with the indication being treated.

### Clinical Studies

**Dose-response relationship:**

- INTRON A dose should be reduced by 50% (2.5 MIU TIW) for a neutrophil count >1000/mm³, but <1500/mm³. The dose may then be adjusted according to the response. The median duration of 16 to 24 weeks.

**Duration of therapy:**

- Therapy should be continued until the disease is controlled or until a complete remission is achieved. Therapy should then be discontinued.

**Effects on survival:**

- Therapy should be continued until the disease is controlled or until a complete remission is achieved. Therapy should then be discontinued.

**Adverse events:**

- INTRON A therapy was discontinued because of adverse events in 65% (n=93) of the patients. INTRON A therapy was discontinued because of adverse events in 64% of patients.

**Dosage adjustment:**

- If severe adverse reactions persist or recur following dosage adjustment, INTRON A should be permanently discontinued.

**Withdrawal of a single dose:**

- If severe adverse reactions persist or recur following dosage adjustment, INTRON A should be permanently discontinued.

**Dose modification/interruption:**

- INTRON A therapy should be extended to 18 to 24 months (72 to 96 weeks) at reduced doses if the disease is controlled or if a complete remission is achieved.

**Dosage Forms:**

- INTRON A Interferon alfa-2b, recombinant Solution for Injection, 18 million IU multidose vial (22.8 million IU per 3.8 mL per vial); boxes containing 1 INTRON A multidose pen, six disposable needles and alcohol swabs (NDC 0085-1235-01).

- INTRON A Interferon alfa-2b, recombinant Powder for Injection, 10 MIU (single dose)* 10 MIU/mL SC N/A

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**Preparation and Administration**

- After complete dissolution of the powder. The appropriate INTRON A dose should then be withdrawn and injected intramuscularly, not intravenously.

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**Diluent:**

- 1 mL Diluent (Sterile Water for Injection, USP) for INTRON A into the INTRON A vial. Swirl gently to hasten complete dissolution of the powder. The appropriate INTRON A dose should then be withdrawn and injected intramuscularly, not intravenously.

**Draw the dose. Discard unused portion.**

**Storage:**

- Store at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F). Protect from light. Do not freeze.

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