

Diroximel fumarate (Vumerity)

What is Diroximel fumarate (Vumerity)?

Diroximel fumarate, marketed under the brand name Vumerity, is a medication used to treat people with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS). Vumerity is specifically prescribed for individuals with "active" relapsing MS, which is defined by recent relapses or new lesions detected on MRI scans.

How does Diroximel fumarate (Vumerity) work?

The exact mechanism of action for diroximel fumarate is not fully understood. However, it is known to reduce inflammation, which may help prevent damage to the brain and spinal cord associated with MS. Vumerity works similarly to another disease-modifying therapy (DMT) called dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera), which has been used since 2014. By dampening inflammation, Vumerity may help reduce the frequency of relapses and the formation of new lesions in people with MS.

Who should take Diroximel fumarate (Vumerity)?

Diroximel fumarate is recommended for people with active relapsing MS, as evidenced by recent relapses or new lesions on MRI scans. However, it is not licensed for use during pregnancy due to potential risks to the unborn child, as seen in animal studies. Women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning to become pregnant should consult with their neurologist to weigh the benefits and risks of continuing this medication. **Reliable contraception is advised for women who are of childbearing potential while taking Vumerity.**

How is Diroximel fumarate (Vumerity) administered?

Diroximel fumarate is administered orally in the form of a tablet, which is taken twice a day. The drug is designed for long-term use and requires regular monitoring to assess its effectiveness and manage any potential side effects.

What are the side effects of Diroximel fumarate (Vumerity)?

Most side effects associated with diroximel fumarate are mild to moderate in severity. The most common side effect is flushing, which affects the face, neck, or upper chest, or causes a sensation of warmth. This occurs in more than 40% of people and typically subsides after a few weeks of treatment. Gastrointestinal issues, such as stomach cramps, diarrhoea, and nausea, are also common, affecting about one-third of users, although these symptoms usually improve within the first month. Additionally, around 10% of people may experience symptoms of a cold or chest infection.

Vumerity may cause fewer side effects than the similar medication Tecfidera and is often used for those who have experienced significant side effects while on Tecfidera.

Disclaimer:

MS Ireland provides information to the MS Community on an array of topics associated with MS. This information is for reference purposes only and medical advice should always be sought before any treatment or intervention is tried.