

Oral Multiple Sclerosis Treatments



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NOTE WELL: The information presented is intended as an limited overview only. Direct clinical trial comparison of these oral medications to each other has not been performed. Results are from different trials for each medication with different MS patients. Always discuss medication options with your healthcare provider to understand the full benefits and risks. A fuller explanation of some of the potential risks of each treatment can be found on the package insert.

BRAND NAME		
Gilenya (fingolimod)	Aubagio (teriflunomide)	Tecfidera (BG-12)
HOW DOES IT WORK?		
Traps certain types of white blood cells in lymph nodes; may have positive role within brain/spinal cord.	Prevents a rapid increase in white blood cells by blocking a step needed for cells to divide.	Has antioxidant cell protection properties and anti-inflammatory benefits.
WHEN FDA-APPROVED		
September 2010	September 2012	March 2013
DOSING		
Once a day 0.5 mg capsule.	Once a day 14 mg or 7 mg tablet.	Twice a day 120 mg capsule first week, then 240 mg twice a day.
DROP IN RELAPSES COMPARED TO PLACEBO		
48-54%	31-36%	44-53%
DROP IN RELAPSES COMPARED TO OTHER TREATMENTS		
52% less relapses than Avonex at one year.	No difference compared to Rebif.	BG-12 44% less relapses vs. placebo; Copaxone 29% less relapses vs. placebo. Difference between treatments not statistically significant.
BENEFIT ON LESS DISABILITY PROGRESSION COMPARED TO PLACEBO		
30% in FREEDOMS trial, statistically significant; 17% FREEDOMS II trial, not statistically significant.	30% in TEMSO trial, statistically significant; 32% in TOWER trial, not statistically significant.	38% in DEFINE trial, statistically significant; 21% in CONFIRM trial, not statistically significant.
DROP IN CONTRAST MRI ACTIVITY COMPARED TO PLACEBO		
Up to 82% (FREEDOMS trial)	80% (TEMSO trial)	Up to 90% (DEFINE trial)
SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE:		
Diarrhea, high liver blood tests, increase blood pressure.	Diarrhea, nausea, hair thinning, high liver blood tests, increase in blood pressure.	Flushing, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, itching, high liver blood tests, high urine protein.
SERIOUS RISKS INCLUDE:		
Slow heart rate with first dose (monitoring required), swelling back of eye (macular edema), serious infection including rare brain viral infection (PML), potential birth defects.	Liver injury, potential birth defects, low white blood cell count, high blood potassium levels.	Low white blood count, rare brain viral infection (PML), potential birth defects.