B

Beta-Interferons

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Synonyms

Avonex[®]; Betaseron[®]; Rebif[®]

Definition

Interferon β is a disease-modifying drug currently indicated for treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis. Its mechanism of action is complex and is presumed to inhibit immune system T-cell activation and migration into the central nervous system as well as modulate the action of some pro-inflammatory proteins (cytokines). There are three FDA approved beta interferons available in the US - Avonex[®] (INF- β 1a), Betaseron[®] (INF- β 1b), and Rebif[®] (INF- β 1a). These medications are administered via injection, and each has been

shown to reduce the frequency of MS relapses, reduce MRI evidence of brain lesions, and possibly reduce disability progression.

Cross-References

► [Multiple Sclerosis](#)

References and Reading

- National Clinical Advisory Board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. (2007). Disease management consensus statement. Retrieved 15 Feb 2010, from <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/download.aspx?id=8>.
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- Zhang, J., Hutton, G., & Zang, Y. (2002). A comparison of the mechanisms of action of interferon beta and glatiramer acetate in the treatment of multiple sclerosis. *Clinical Therapeutics*, 24, 1998–2021.