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PRESCRIBING ALERT®

Editorial and financial support provided by Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Dear Healthcare Professional,

At *MPR*, we strive to bring you important drug information in a concise and timely fashion. In keeping with this goal, we are pleased to bring you this PRESCRIBING ALERT announcing the FDA approval of [INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ \(paliperidone palmitate\) Extended-Release Injectable Suspension](#) from [Janssen®, Division of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.](#)

INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ is now approved for acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia. Administered as an intramuscular injection, INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ is dosed once a month, after initiating therapy.¹

INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ demonstrated safety and tolerability through four fixed-dose, double-blind, placebo controlled studies (n=1803) and the longer-term maintenance study (n=849). Additionally, discontinuation rates due to adverse events were 5% for INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ versus 7.8% for placebo as reported in four fixed-dose, double-blind, placebo controlled studies.¹

Patients without previous exposure to paliperidone or risperidone received 3 mg to 6 mg/day of oral paliperidone extended release for 4 to 6 days before entering the study.^{2,4}

The most common adverse reactions that occurred in clinical studies (incidence ≥5% of patients and occurring at least twice as often as placebo) were injection site reactions, somnolence/sedation, dizziness, akathisia, and extrapyramidal disorder.¹

INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ significantly delayed time to relapse in the longer-term maintenance study in patients with schizophrenia.¹ In addition, 10% of patients taking INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ experienced relapse by study protocol-defined measures compared to 34% of patients taking placebo.⁵

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FOR INVEGA® SUSTENNA™

WARNING: Increased Mortality in Elderly Patients with Dementia-Related Psychosis. Elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis treated with antipsychotic drugs are at an increased risk of death. Analyses of 17 placebo-controlled trials (modal duration of 10 weeks), largely in patients taking atypical antipsychotic drugs, revealed a risk of death in the drug-treated patients of between 1.6 to 1.7 times the risk of death in placebo-treated patients. Over the course of a typical 10-week controlled trial, the rate of death in drug-treated patients was about 4.5%, compared to a rate of about 2.6% in the placebo group. Although the causes of death were varied, most of the deaths appeared to be either cardiovascular (e.g., heart failure, sudden death) or infectious (e.g., pneumonia) in nature. Observational studies suggest that, similar to atypical antipsychotic drugs, treatment with conventional antipsychotic drugs may increase mortality. The extent to which the findings of increased mortality in observational studies may be attributed to the antipsychotic drug as opposed to some characteristic(s) of the patients is not clear. INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ (paliperidone palmitate) is not approved for the treatment of patients with dementia-related psychosis.

Hypersensitivity: Hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylactic reactions and angioedema, have been observed in patients treated with risperidone and paliperidone, which is a metabolite of risperidone. Therefore paliperidone is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to either paliperidone or risperidone, or to any of the excipients in INVEGA® SUSTENNA™.

Cerebrovascular Adverse Events (CAEs): CAEs, including fatalities and stroke, have been reported in elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis taking oral risperidone in clinical trials. The incidence of CAEs with risperidone was significantly higher than with placebo. INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ is not approved for the treatment of patients with dementia-related psychosis.

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS): NMS, a potentially fatal symptom complex, has been reported with the use of antipsychotic medications, including paliperidone. Clinical manifestations include muscle rigidity, fever, altered mental status and evidence of autonomic instability (see full Prescribing Information). Management should include immediate discontinuation of antipsychotic drugs and other drugs not essential to concurrent therapy, intensive symptomatic treatment and close medical monitoring, and treatment of any concomitant serious medical problems.

(Important Safety Information continued on back)

QT Prolongation: Paliperidone causes a modest increase in the corrected QT (QTc) interval. Avoid the use of drugs that also increase QT interval and in patients with risk factors for prolonged QT interval. Paliperidone should also be avoided in patients with congenital long QT syndrome and in patients with a history of cardiac arrhythmias. Certain circumstances may increase the risk of the occurrence of torsade de pointes and/or sudden death in association with the use of drugs that prolong the QTc interval.

Tardive Dyskinesia (TD): TD is a syndrome of potentially irreversible, involuntary, dyskinetic movements that may develop in patients treated with antipsychotic medications. The risk of developing TD and the likelihood that dyskinetic movements will become irreversible are believed to increase with duration of treatment and total cumulative dose, but can develop after relatively brief treatment at low doses. Elderly women patients appeared to be at increased risk for TD, although it is impossible to predict which patients will develop the syndrome. Prescribing should be consistent with the need to minimize the risk of TD. Discontinue drug if clinically appropriate. The syndrome may remit, partially or completely, if antipsychotic treatment is withdrawn.

Hyperglycemia and Diabetes: Hyperglycemia, some cases extreme and associated with ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar coma or death has been reported in patients treated with atypical antipsychotics (APS), including INVEGA® SUSTENNA™. Patients starting treatment with APS who have or are at risk for diabetes should undergo fasting blood glucose testing at the beginning of and during treatment. Patients who develop symptoms of hyperglycemia should also undergo fasting blood glucose testing. Some patients require continuation of anti-diabetic treatment despite discontinuation of the suspect drug.

Weight Gain: Weight gain has been observed with INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ and other atypical antipsychotic medications. Monitor weight gain.

Hyperprolactinemia: As with other drugs that antagonize dopamine D₂ receptors, INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ elevates prolactin levels and the elevation persists during chronic administration. Paliperidone has a prolactin-elevating effect similar to risperidone, which is associated with higher levels of prolactin elevation than other antipsychotic agents.

Orthostatic Hypotension and Syncope: INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ may induce orthostatic hypotension associated with dizziness, tachycardia, and in some patients, syncope, especially during the initial dose-titration period. Monitoring should be considered in patients for whom this may be of concern. INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ should be used with caution in patients with known cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease or conditions that would predispose patients to hypotension.

Leukopenia, Neutropenia and Agranulocytosis have been reported with antipsychotics, including paliperidone. Patients with a history of clinically significant low white blood cell count (WBC) or drug-induced leukopenia/neutropenia should have frequent complete blood cell counts during the first few months of therapy. At the first sign of a clinically significant decline in WBC and in the absence of other causative factors, discontinuation of INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ should be considered. Patients with clinically significant neutropenia should be carefully monitored for fever or other symptoms or signs of infection and treated promptly if such symptoms or signs occur. Patients with severe neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count <1000/mm³) should discontinue INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ and have their WBC followed until recovery.

Potential for Cognitive and Motor Impairment: Somnolence, sedation, and dizziness were reported as adverse reactions in subjects treated with INVEGA® SUSTENNA™. INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ has the potential to impair judgment, thinking, or motor skills. Patients should be cautioned about operating hazardous machinery, including motor vehicles, until they are reasonably certain that INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ does not affect them adversely, and should use caution when operating machinery.

Seizures: INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ should be used cautiously in patients with a history of seizures or with conditions that potentially lower seizure threshold.

Suicide: The possibility of suicide attempt is inherent in schizophrenia. Close supervision of high-risk patients should accompany drug therapy.

Administration: For intramuscular injection only. Care should be taken to avoid inadvertent injection into a blood vessel.

Commonly Observed Adverse Reactions for INVEGA® SUSTENNA™: The most common adverse reactions in clinical trials in patients with schizophrenia (≥5% and twice placebo) were injection site reactions, somnolence/sedation, dizziness, akathisia and extrapyramidal disorder.

More information about INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ is available in the current edition of *MPR*.

For your reference, please see enclosed full Prescribing Information, including Boxed Warning, for INVEGA® SUSTENNA™.

Sincerely,



Grace L. McBride
Editorial Director
MPR Custom Programs

REFERENCES

1. INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ Prescribing information. Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Titusville, NJ.
2. U.S. National Institutes of Health. A study to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of 3 doses of paliperidone palmitate in treating subjects with schizophrenia. <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00210548?term=nct00210548&rank=1>. Updated August 27, 2009. Accessed October 23, 2009.
3. U.S. National Institutes of Health. Efficacy and safety of 3 fixed doses of paliperidone palmitate versus placebo in patients with schizophrenia. <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00101634?term=nct00101634&rank=1>. Updated August 27, 2009. Accessed October 23, 2009.
4. U.S. National Institutes of Health. Effectiveness and safety of 3 fixed doses (25 mg eq., 100 mg eq., and 150 mg eq.) of paliperidone palmitate in patients with schizophrenia. <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00590577?term=nct00590577&rank=1>. Updated October 20, 2009. Accessed October 23, 2009.
5. Hough D, Gopel S, Vijapurkar U, et al. Paliperidone palmitate, an atypical injectable antipsychotic, in prevention of symptom recurrence in patients with schizophrenia: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. Poster presented at: American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting; May 3-8, 2008; Washington, DC.

PRESCRIBING ALERT

INVEGA® SUSTENNA™

(paliperidone palmitate) Extended Release Injectable Suspension

Company: Janssen, Division of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Pharmacological class: Benzisoxazole

Active ingredient: Paliperidone (as palmitate) 39 mg, 78 mg, 117 mg, 156 mg, 234 mg; ext-rel susp for IM inj.

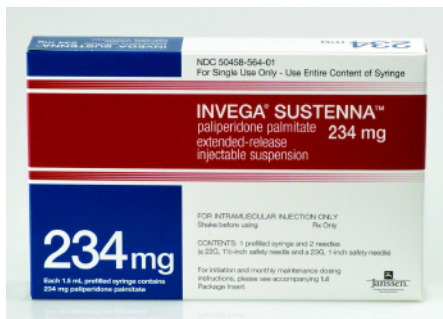
Indications: Acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia.

Dosing:

- Initiation: 234 mg on day 1, followed by 156 mg 1 week later, administered in the deltoid muscle
- Maintenance: 117 mg administered monthly, in the deltoid or gluteal muscle
 - Adjust dose within range of 39 to 234 mg based on patient tolerability and/or efficacy

How supplied: Kit – 1 (prefilled syringe + 2 needles)

Ⓡ



Now Approved

Please see Important Safety Information, including Boxed Warning, for INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ on the reverse side and enclosed full Prescribing Information.

✓ **INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ is a once-monthly maintenance medication¹**

✓ **INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ has a demonstrated safety and tolerability profile¹**

• INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ demonstrated safety and tolerability through four fixed-dose, double-blind placebo controlled studies (n=1803) and a longer term maintenance study (n=849)¹

• Discontinuation rates due to adverse events with INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ were 5% and 7.8% with placebo, as reported in four fixed-dose, double-blind, placebo controlled studies (n=1803)¹

Patients without previous exposure to paliperidone or risperidone received 3 mg to 6 mg/day of oral paliperidone extended-release for 4 to 6 days before entering the study.^{2,4}

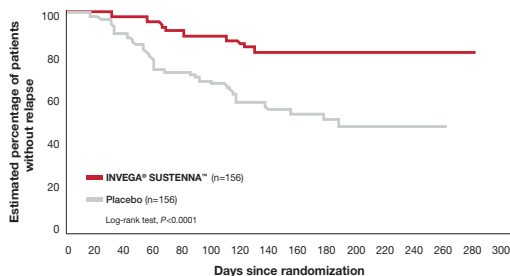
• Most common adverse events that occurred in clinical studies (incidence

≥5% of patients and occurring at least twice as often as placebo) were injection site reactions, somnolence/sedation, dizziness, akathisia, and extrapyramidal disorder¹

✓ **INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ significantly delayed time to relapse¹**

• In an interim analysis of the longer-term maintenance study, 10% of patients taking INVEGA® SUSTENNA™, compared to 34% of patients on placebo, experienced relapse by study protocol-defined measures⁵

TIME TO RELAPSE IN THE LONGER-TERM MAINTENANCE STUDY



STUDY DESIGN: Results from the longer-term, placebo-controlled study of adult patients with schizophrenia. Patients received a 39-mg, 78-mg, or 156-mg dose of INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ in a 33-week, open-label stabilization phase. Patients were then randomized to this same dose or to placebo in a variable-length, double-blind phase. After a preplanned interim analysis (after 68 relapse events), the study was stopped early because maintenance of efficacy was demonstrated.

Sources: INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ prescribing information¹; Hough D, et al.⁵

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PREScribing ALERT

INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ (paliperidone palmitate) extended-release injectable suspension is indicated for the acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults.

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You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see accompanying full Prescribing Information.

REFERENCES: 1. INVEGA® SUSTENNA™ Prescribing information. Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Titusville, NJ. 2. US National Institutes of Health. A study to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of 3 doses of paliperidone palmitate in treating subjects with schizophrenia. Available at: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00210548?term=nct00210548&rank=1>. Updated August 27, 2009. Accessed October 23, 2009. 3. US National Institutes of Health. Efficacy and safety of 3 fixed doses of paliperidone palmitate versus placebo in patients with schizophrenia. Available at: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00101634?term=nct00101634&rank=1>. Updated August 27, 2009. Accessed October 23, 2009. 4. US National Institutes of Health. Effectiveness and safety of 3 fixed doses (25 mg eq., 100 mg eq., and 150 mg eq.) of paliperidone palmitate in patients with schizophrenia. Available at: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00590577?term=nct00590577&rank=1>. Updated October 20, 2009. Accessed October 23, 2009. 5. Hough D, Gopel S, Vijapurkar U, et al. Paliperidone, palmitate, an atypical injectable antipsychotic in prevention of symptom recurrence in patients with schizophrenia: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. Poster presented at: American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting; May 3-8, 2008; Washington, DC.