Zulresso (brexanolone)

NEW PRODUCT SLIDESHOW

MPR

Introduction

- **Brand name:** Zulresso
- **Generic name:** Brexanolone
- **Pharmacological class:** neuroactive steroid gamma-aminobutyric acid $(GABA)_A$ receptor positive modulator
- **Strength and Formulation:** 100mg/20mL (5mg/mL); soln for IV infusion after dilution; preservative-free
- **Manufacturer:** Sage Therapeutics
- **How supplied:** Single-dose vial—1
- **Legal Classification:** CIV

Zulresso


Rx ONLY
NDC 72152-547-20
20 mL
Zulresso™
[brexanolone] injection IV
100 mg/20 mL
(5 mg/mL)
FOR INTRAVENOUS INFUSION
AFTER DILUTION
Dispense the accompanying
Medication Guide to each patient.
SAGE
NDC 72152-547-20
Rx ONLY
20 mL
Zulresso™
[brexanolone] injection IV
100 mg/20 mL
(5 mg/mL)
FOR INTRAVENOUS INFUSION
AFTER DILUTION.

Indication

- For the treatment of **postpartum depression** in adults

Dosage & Administration

- Give as a continuous IV infusion over 60hrs (2.5 days)
- 0–4hrs: initially 30mcg/kg/hr;
- 4–24hrs: increase to 60mcg/kg/hr;
- 24–52hrs: increase to 90mcg/kg/hr (reduction to 60mcg/kg/hr may be considered if not tolerated at this time period);
- 52–56hrs: decrease to 60mcg/kg/hr;
- 56–60hrs: decrease to 30mcg/kg/hr
- ESRD (eGFR <15mL/min/1.73m^2): avoid

Considerations for Special Populations

- **Pregnancy:** no available data on use in pregnant women to determine a drug-associated risk
- **Nursing mothers:** available data from a lactation study in 12 women indicate that brexanolone is transferred to breastmilk, however, the relative infant dose is low, 1% to 2% of the maternal weight-adjusted dosage
- **Renal impairment:** avoid use in patients with ESRD with eGFR of <15 mL/min/1.73m^2 because of the potential accumulation of the solubilizing agent, betadex sulfobutyl ether sodium

Boxed Warning

- Patients are at **risk of excessive sedation or sudden loss of consciousness** during administration
- Patients must be monitored for excessive sedation and sudden loss of consciousness and have continuous pulse oximetry monitoring
- Patients must be accompanied during interactions with their child(ren)
- Zulresso is available only through a restricted program called the **ZULRESSO REMS**

Zulresso REMS

- Notable requirements include:
  - **Healthcare facilities** must enroll in the program and ensure that Zulresso is only administered to patients who are enrolled in the REMS program
  - **Pharmacies** must be certified with the program and must only dispense Zulresso to healthcare facilities who are certified in the REMS
  - **Patients** must be enrolled in the Zulresso REMS prior to administration
  - **Wholesalers and distributors** must be registered with the program and must only distribute to certified healthcare facilities and pharmacies
- For more information visit www.zulressorems.com or call (844) 472-4379

Warnings/Precautions

- Risk of excessive **sedation or sudden loss of consciousness** during therapy; must be monitored with continuous pulse oximetry
- During therapy, monitor for sedative effects every 2hrs during non-sleep periods
- Discontinue infusion if signs/symptoms of excessive sedation; may resume after resolution at the same or lower dose
- Suicidal thoughts and behaviors
- Consider changing regimen or discontinuing therapy if depression worsens or persists

Interactions

- May increase severity of sedation with concomitant opioids, antidepressants, or other CNS depressants (eg, benzodiazepines, alcohol)

Adverse Reactions

- **Most common** (≥5%): sedation/ somnolence, dry mouth, loss of consciousness, and flushing/hot flush

Mechanism of Action

- The mechanism of action of brexanolone in the treatment of postpartum depression in adults is not fully understood, but is thought to be related to its positive allosteric modulation of $GABA_A$ receptors

Clinical Trials

- The efficacy of Zulresso in the treatment of postpartum depression (PPD) was demonstrated in 2 double blind, placebo controlled studies in women (18 to 45 years) with PPD who met the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders criteria for a major depressive episode (DSM-IV) with onset of symptoms in the third trimester or within 4 weeks of delivery

Clinical Trials

- In these studies, patients received a 60-hour continuous intravenous infusion of Zulresso or placebo and were then followed for 4 weeks
- The primary end point was the mean change from baseline in depressive symptoms as measured by the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D) total score at the end of the infusion (Hour 60)

Clinical Trials

- In both studies, titration to a target dose of Zulresso 90mcg/kg/hour was superior to placebo in improvement of depressive symptoms
- In a group of 38 patients in Study 1, a Zulresso titration to a target dose of 60mcg/kg/hour was also superior to placebo in improvement of depressive symptoms

New Product Monograph

- For more information view the product monograph available at:

  https://www.empr.com/drug/zulresso/