

Generic: valbenazine (FDA approved 4/11/2017)

Company: Neurocrine Biosciences

Mechanism of Action: The mechanism is unknown but is thought to be mediated through the reversible inhibition of VMAT2, a monoamine transporter. By inhibiting the transporter, the amount of dopamine released into the synaptic cleft is reduced, helping regulate nerve signaling in regions of the brain that control movement and motor functions.

Agent for: Tardive Dyskinesia (TD)

Indications: Helps reduce the uncontrollable movement of TD in adults

COMPARABLE DRUG: Clonazepam and quetiapine may be used to manage TD. Use of atypical neuroleptics, such as clozapine, may reduce risk of TD.

COST PER MONTH (WAC)

CLONAZEPAM 2 MG = \$3.34

CLOZAPINE 100 MG = \$390

INGREZZA 40 MG = \$10,697

QUETIAPINE ER = \$377.89

QUETIAPINE 100 MG = \$41.70

ADVANTAGES:

- Provides an alternative to stopping or tapering off antipsychotic medication.
- First and only FDA approved medication to treat TD.
- Reductions in TD symptoms were seen as early as two weeks.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Patients with hepatic impairment should receive a lower dosage. Not recommended for patients with severe renal impairment.
- Can be taken with or without food, but ingestion of a high fat meal decreases maximum plasma concentration by about 47%.
- Metabolized by CYP3A4/5 and its active metabolite by CYP2D6 which increases potential for multiple drug interactions

MOST IMPORTANT RISKS/ADVERSE EVENTS: May prolong the QT interval and lead to heart rhythm problems. May also cause sleepiness; patients taking Ingrezza should not drive or operate heavy machinery until it is known how the drug affects them.

MOST COMMON ADVERSE EVENTS: Most common adverse reaction is somnolence (sleepiness). Other adverse reactions include loss of balance, movement disorders (akathisia), nausea, vomiting, joint pain, and anticholinergic effects such as dry mouth or blurry vision.

USUAL DOSAGE: The initial dose is 40 mg once daily. After a week, the recommended dose is 80 mg once daily. Some patients may remain on a 40 mg daily dose. The capsules are intended for oral administration only.

PRODUCT: Ingrezza is available as 40mg capsules with a white opaque body and purple cap. The opaque body is printed with "VBZ" and the purple cap is printed with "40" in black. Should be stored at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

COMMENTS: Tardive dyskinesia is characterized by involuntary movements in the face and extremities in patients taking long-term dopamine receptor blocking medication. The main cause of TD is thought to be chronic exposure to dopamine receptor blockers. Primary prevention of TD is using lowest effective dose of neuroleptic for the shortest amount of time or using atypical neuroleptics, such as clozapine to reduce risk of TD. Ingrezza is the first drug approved by the FDA for TD. Studies have shown that patients receiving 80 mg of Ingrezza showed a 30% reduction in TD after 6 weeks on treatment. After 48 weeks of treatment, reductions in uncontrollable movements were maintained.