

Riluzole

Traffic light classification- Amber 1 Information sheet for Primary Care Prescribers

Licensed Indications

Riluzole is indicated to extend life or the time to mechanical ventilation for patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Medicines Initiation

Consultant Neurologist/Specialist experienced in the management of Motor Neurone Disease (MND)

Products available

Riluzole 50mg tablet

Dosages and route of administration

Riluzole is given orally at a dose of 50 mg bd

Duration of treatment

Potentially lifelong. Patients will continue to be reviewed in MND clinic and treatment withdrawn if no efficacy demonstrated following discussion with patient.

Monitoring Requirements and Responsibilities

The specialist will be responsible for the monitoring required in the first 3 months of treatment.

Ongoing monitoring in Primary Care:

Time period in treatment	Frequency Monitoring	Tests to be done	
		LFTs	FBC
3-12 months	3 monthly	✓	✓
>12 months	Annually	✓	✓

Explicit criteria for review and discontinuation of the medicine:

Adverse effect	Action to be taken
Abnormal LFTs	Riluzole should be discontinued if ALT levels rise to five times the upper limit of normal.
Febrile illness	Check FBC. Discontinuation is mandatory in the case of neutropenia.
Dizziness and vertigo	Patients should be warned not to drive if these occur.
Respiratory symptoms such as dry cough and/or dyspnoea,	Perform chest X-ray. If findings are suggestive of interstitial lung disease riluzole should be discontinued.

For a full list of side effects refer to the BNF or Summary of Product Characteristics.

IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT ANY POTENTIAL ADVERSE REACTION, PLEASE CONTACT THE SPECIALIST TEAM.

Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to riluzole,
- Hepatic disease or baseline transaminases greater than three times upper limit of normal
- Pregnancy/lactation.

Precautions

- History of abnormal liver function or minor abnormalities of liver function.
- Renal impairment,
- Patients or their carers should be told how to recognise signs of neutropenia and advised to seek immediate medical attention if symptoms such a fever occur.

Clinically relevant medicine interactions and their management

- **Sulfasalazine:** Theoretical interaction of increased risk of hepatotoxicity - Caution should be used if riluzole and sulfasalazine are to be co-administered.
- **Theophylline:** Elevated serum concentrations of theophylline and riluzole and potential toxicity. Monitor patients for signs and symptoms of toxicity associated with theophylline (nausea, vomiting, irritability, and tachycardia) and/or riluzole (asthenia, nausea, dizziness, somnolence, circumoral paresthesia). Reduce doses as required.
- Inhibitors (e.g. theophylline, quinolones) and inducers (e.g. rifampicin, omeprazole) of CYP 1A2 could potentially affect the rate of elimination of riluzole

For a full list of contraindications, precautions and drug interactions refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics.

Information given to patient

- Patients will be fully counselled regarding riluzole, including the need for monitoring prior to primary care prescribing.
- A patient information leaflet is available from the [MND association](#).

Other Supporting Information

Please refer to the BNF and manufacturer’s ‘Summary of Product Characteristics’ for further information

An estimate of the potential medicine costs (and any additional costs) to primary care

- 56 x 50 mg tablets costs £16.50 (e.g. 1 months supply) therefore the annual cost per patient is approximately £198.
- The 25mg/5ml oral suspension (Teglutik®) costs £100 for 300ml, equivalent to approx. annual cost of £2400. This is not recommended for use locally.

REFERENCES

<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA20/Guidance/pdf/English>. Published Date: 23/01/2001
[Rilutek SPC. Last Updated on www.emc.medicines.org 12/11/2020](http://www.emc.medicines.org)
 Stockley’s Drug Interactions accessed via www.medicinescomplete.com. Latest modification: 25-Jul-2018
 Drugdex accessed via Micromedex solutions 10/01/2018.
[BNF](#) January 2021 accessed via www.medicinescomplete.com

Version Control- Riluzole			
Version	Author(s)	Date	Changes
2.1	Shary – Specialist Interface and Formulary Pharmacist	05/02/2021	Minor changes - price