

# Getting to know MAVENCLAD<sup>®</sup>



## About this leaflet

The adveva<sup>™</sup> support program has designed this leaflet as an introduction to MAVENCLAD and the treatment plan you are about to start. Please read it carefully. If you have any questions, the adveva team is here to help you.

## Other leaflets in this series

- Before you take MAVENCLAD
- Storing and taking MAVENCLAD
- Potential side effects and risks of MAVENCLAD
- Contraception, pregnancy and MAVENCLAD
- After your first year of treatment

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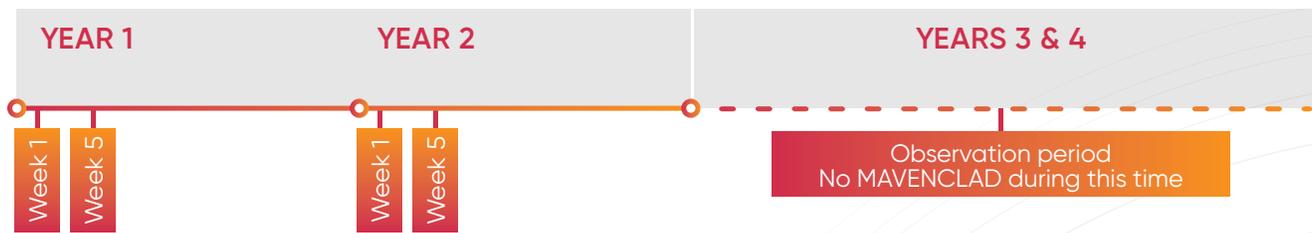
**www.adveva.ca**  
Based on nurse availability

# Getting to know MAVENCLAD

MAVENCLAD is used to treat adult patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS). MAVENCLAD is generally recommended for multiple sclerosis (MS) patients who have not responded well to, or cannot tolerate one or more of the other therapies for MS. Treatment with MAVENCLAD has been shown to reduce the frequency of relapses and slow down disability progression.

MAVENCLAD is taken for two weeks in the first year, then two weeks in the second year. The two treatment weeks are spaced one month apart. A treatment week consists of one or two tablets daily given for four or five days.

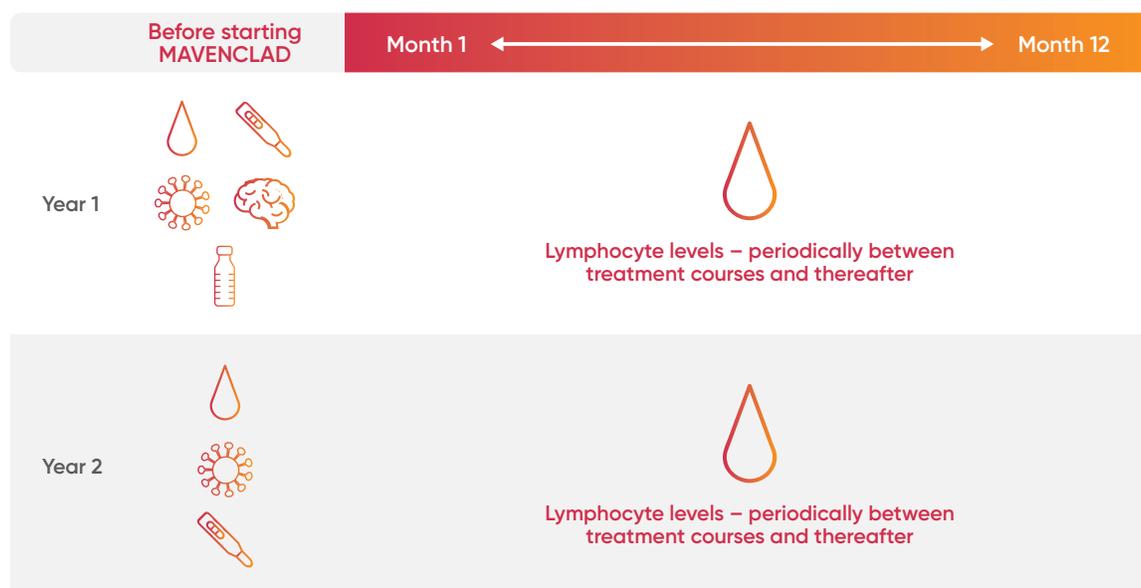
So treatment in Years 1 and 2 will look like this:



In Years 3 and 4, your healthcare professional will monitor your MS, and during this time you will not need to take MAVENCLAD.

# What to expect at your appointments

The table below will help you visualize when your healthcare professional will want to see you and what will be happening at these appointments.



-  Your healthcare professional will order a blood test to see if your lymphocytes are in an acceptable range.
-  You will be tested to see if you have any infections before you start treatment.
-  If necessary, you will be vaccinated against varicella (chickenpox) before starting MAVENCLAD.
-  For female patients, a pregnancy test will be conducted to rule out pregnancy before starting MAVENCLAD.
-  As a precaution, you may be required to have a brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan prior to starting treatment. This is particularly important if you have previously taken other MS medications.

## How MAVENCLAD works

To understand how MAVENCLAD works, you'll need to refresh your understanding of what happens in MS. MS is a complex disease in which different types of immune cells, including T and B cells (also known as lymphocytes), play a key role. In people with MS, the immune system attacks the protective covering of the nerves (known as myelin), causing inflammation and damage that can lead to the symptoms of MS.

### What MAVENCLAD does

MAVENCLAD acts in a specific way on cells in your immune system called B and T lymphocytes (types of white blood cells) to reduce inflammation in your body caused by MS.

### The role of treatment

MS is a life-long condition that presently can be treated but not cured. Appropriate therapy may be used to reduce the frequency of clinical exacerbations and delay progression of disability. Make sure you take your medication exactly as prescribed.

# Important information about MAVENCLAD

**Do not use MAVENCLAD** if you are at risk for infections because you have a weak immune system due to treatments you receive (for cancer, chronic corticosteroids, bone marrow transplant[s], etc.); or other medical conditions (for example, if you are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]); have an active or inactive (past) infection, for example tuberculosis or liver inflammation (hepatitis); have or had a type of rare infection of the brain called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML); have an active cancer; have moderate or severe kidney problems; are pregnant or breastfeeding.

## Before you use MAVENCLAD

Talk to your healthcare professional if you have a weakened immune system due to treatments you receive or other medical conditions; have an infection; have liver problems; have recently been vaccinated; have or have previously had cancer; require blood transfusions; are pregnant, or are thinking of becoming pregnant as MAVENCLAD may harm your baby; are breastfeeding; are less than 18 years of age.

## Side effects

MAVENCLAD may cause side effects. Not all possible side effects are listed here. The most common side effects are nausea and headache. Other common side effects include cold sores (oral herpes), rash, hair loss or thinning, fever, abdominal pain, toothache, flu and flu-like symptoms, cold symptoms, bronchitis or other chest infections, symptoms of gastroenteritis (diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain), back pain, anxiety, vaginal infection.

Talk to your healthcare professional if you experience any of the following serious side effects: lymphopenia, a reduction in the number of certain white blood cells, with symptoms such as infections, feeling unusually tired, fever, aches, pain and flu-like symptoms; tuberculosis, with symptoms such as a cough that does not go away, fever or loss of weight; shingles, with symptoms such as a localized "band" of severe pain and blistering rash, typically on one side of the upper body or the face, headache, burning, tingling, numbness or itchiness of the skin in the affected area, feeling generally unwell or fever in the early stages of infection. You should also talk to your healthcare professional if you have any troublesome symptoms or side effects not listed here or that become bad enough to interfere with your daily activities.

## Other warnings you should know about

### Blood tests

You will have blood tests conducted prior to starting treatment with MAVENCLAD and during and after treatment to ensure you can continue to take MAVENCLAD and are not developing any complications from the treatment.

## General infections

You will be tested to see if you have any infections prior to starting treatment. It is important to talk to your healthcare professional if you think you have an infection before, during or after treatment. Symptoms of infections can include: fever; aching, painful muscles; headache; generally feeling unwell or loss of appetite. Your healthcare professional may delay starting treatment or interrupt current treatment, until the infection clears up.

## Vaccination

Talk to your healthcare professional if you have recently been given, or might be given, vaccines called *live* or *live attenuated* vaccines. Treatment can only begin 6 weeks after you have been vaccinated. If necessary, you will be vaccinated against varicella (chickenpox) prior to starting treatment. You must not be vaccinated during treatment. You may only be vaccinated after treatment when your white blood cell count is normal.

## Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)

PML is a rare brain disorder caused by infection; it is a serious condition that may lead to severe disability or death. As a precaution, you may have a head MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) prior to starting treatment. This is particularly important if you have previously taken other multiple sclerosis treatments where PML is a risk. Talk to your healthcare professional if you believe your MS is getting worse or if you notice any new symptoms, such as: weakness on one side of the body that gets worse, clumsiness of your arms and legs, trouble with your vision, changes in your thinking and memory that lead to confusion and personality changes.

## Risk of cancer

MAVENCLAD causes damage to DNA (genotoxicity) and suppresses the immune system. As a result, MAVENCLAD could potentially increase the risk of cancer. Follow your healthcare professional's instructions for screening for cancer.

## Fructose intolerance

MAVENCLAD contains sorbitol. Do not take MAVENCLAD if you have hereditary problems of fructose intolerance.

## Pregnancy and fertility

Both men and women must use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 6 months after the last dose. For female patients, it is not known if MAVENCLAD will reduce the effectiveness of birth control pills. Given this, a barrier method of contraception (for example, condoms) should be added during treatment and for at least 4 weeks after the last dose in each treatment year. If you or your partner becomes pregnant during treatment or within 6 months of finishing treatment, there may be a risk to the unborn baby. Your healthcare professional will stop treatment with MAVENCLAD if you are a woman and you get pregnant while taking it. MAVENCLAD may affect male fertility. Talk to your healthcare professional for more information.

**For more information, please consult the package insert that came with your medication.**

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