



[Home](#)

2. Dimethyl fumarate

Dimethyl fumarate

Pronunciation: *dye-METH-il-FUE-mar-ate*

Brand name: [Tecfidera](#)

Dosage form: delayed-release capsule (120 mg; 240 mg)

Drug class: [Selective immunosuppressants](#)

Medically reviewed by [Melisa Puckey, BPharm](#). Last updated on Aug 8, 2024.

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Before taking](#) [Warnings](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is dimethyl fumarate?

Dimethyl fumarate is used for [multiple sclerosis](#) to help decrease the number of flare-ups (relapses), delay the progression of physical disability, and slow brain lesion development. Dimethyl fumarate (Brand: [Tecfidera](#)) is FDA-approved in adults to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS), including clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease.

Dimethyl fumarate is a delayed-release capsule that is taken twice daily. Dimethyl fumarate is available under the brand name [Tecfidera](#) by Biogen Inc., and now also available as a generic.

Dimethyl fumarate side effects

Common dimethyl fumarate side effects

Common dimethyl fumarate side effects are stomach pain, indigestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, redness, rash, itching, or flushing (sudden warmth, redness, or tingly feeling).

Serious dimethyl fumarate side effects.

Get emergency medical help if you have signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

This medication may cause a serious brain infection that can lead to disability or death. Call your doctor right away if you have problems with speech, thought, vision, or muscle movement. These symptoms may start gradually and get worse quickly.

Also, call your doctor at once if you have:

- symptoms of herpes virus--flu-like symptoms, [cold sores](#) around your mouth, tingly or painful blistering rash, burning pain in your thigh or lower back;
- low white blood cell counts - fever, mouth sores, skin sores, sore throat, cough, trouble breathing, or

- liver problems - loss of appetite, stomach pain (upper right side), tiredness, [itching](#), dark urine, clay-colored stools, [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

This is not a complete list of side effects, and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Dimethyl fumarate side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Ocrevus

Ocrevus (ocrelizumab) is used for MS to treat relapsing and primary progressive forms of multiple ...

Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[176 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Tecfidera

Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate) is used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis. Learn about ...

Reviews & ratings

6.2 / 10

[101 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Avonex

Avonex is an interferon used to treat relapsing multiple sclerosis. Learn about side effects ...

Reviews & ratings

7.3 / 10

[46 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Briumvi

Briumvi is used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS) in adults, including clinically

adults, including clinically ...

Reviews & ratings

8.2 / 10

[13 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Betaseron

Betaseron is used to treat relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS). Learn about side effects ...

Reviews & ratings

7.1 / 10

[9 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Rebif

Rebif is used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS) in adults, including clinically ...

Reviews & ratings

6.8 / 10

[29 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Ocrevus Zunovo

Ocrevus Zunovo (ocrelizumab and hyaluronidase) is a treatment for relapsing forms of multiple ...

Reviews & ratings

[Add a review](#)

[View more](#)

Extavia

Extavia is used to treat the relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis. Learn about side effects ...

Reviews & ratings

[Add a review](#)

[View more](#)

Kesimpta

Kesimpta (ofatumumab) is used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis. Includes Kesimpta ...

Reviews & ratings

6.8 / 10

[74 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Copaxone

Copaxone is used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS) in adults (including ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[133 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Before taking this medicine

You should not use diethyl fumarate if you have had a severe allergic reaction to dimethyl fumarate or [diroximel fumarate \(Vumerity\)](#).

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- an active infection; or
- low white blood cell (WBC) counts.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

If you are pregnant, your name may be listed on a pregnancy registry to track the effects of dimethyl fumarate on the baby.

Dimethyl fumarate is not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.

 [Dimethyl fumarate pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

Warnings

This medicine may cause a serious brain infection that can lead to disability or death. Call your doctor right away if you have problems with speech, thought, vision, or muscle movement. These symptoms may start gradually and get worse

quickly.

How should I take dimethyl fumarate?

Your doctor will perform blood tests to make sure you do not have conditions that would prevent you from safely using dimethyl fumarate.

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

You may take dimethyl fumarate with or without food. Taking the medicine with food may help prevent flushing (sudden warmth, redness, or tingly feeling).

Swallow the capsule whole, and do not crush, chew, break, or open it.

While using dimethyl fumarate, you will need frequent blood tests.

Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature, away from moisture, heat, and light.

Dimethyl fumarate dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Multiple Sclerosis:

Initial dose: 120 mg orally twice a day for 7 days, then increase to the maintenance dose.

Maintenance dose: 240 mg orally twice a day.

Comments: For individuals who do not tolerate the maintenance dose, temporary dose reductions to 120 mg twice a day may be considered. Within four weeks, the recommended dose of 240 mg twice a day should be resumed.

Use: For the treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis, including clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease.

 [Detailed Dimethyl fumarate dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while taking dimethyl fumarate?

Follow your doctor's instructions about any restrictions on food, beverages, or activity.

What other drugs will affect dimethyl fumarate?

Other drugs may affect dimethyl fumarate, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Dimethyl fumarate drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does dimethyl fumarate interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

dimethyl fumarate

+










Enter a drug name

Add

Company

Manufactured for: Biogen Inc., Cambridge, MA 02142.

Popular FAQ

- Is Tecfidera an immunosuppressant? 
- Can I stop taking Tecfidera? What happens if I do? 
- What causes flushing with Tecfidera? 
- Can you drink alcohol while taking Tecfidera? 
- Gilenya vs Tecfidera. How do they compare? 
- How long can you take Tecfidera? 
- Does Tecfidera cause weight gain or loss? 
- Can Tecfidera cause low lymphocytes? 
- How long does it take Tecfidera to start working? 

[View more FAQ...](#)

References

More about dimethyl fumarate

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(114\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: selective immunosuppressants](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

Other brands

[Tecfidera](#)

Professional resources

- [Dimethyl Fumarate monograph](#)
- [Dimethyl Fumarate \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Tecfidera](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Multiple Sclerosis](#)

Further information

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation


 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug



Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

6.4 / 10

[114 Reviews](#)

Images

[Dimethyl Fumarate Delayed-Release 240 mg \(H D15\)](#)



[View larger images](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)





[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.

