

**PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION**

**BEXSERO**

Multicomponent Meningococcal B Vaccine (recombinant, adsorbed)

This leaflet is Part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when BEXSERO was approved for sale in Canada and designed specifically for consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about BEXSERO. Contact your doctor/pharmacist/nurse if you have any questions about the vaccine.

**ABOUT THIS VACCINE**

What the vaccine is used for:

BEXSERO is a vaccine for the prevention of Meningococcal disease caused by the *Neisseria meningitidis* group B bacteria (germs). These germs can cause serious, and sometimes life-threatening, infections such as meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and sepsis (blood poisoning).

BEXSERO is given to individuals from 2 months through 25 years of age.

What it does:

The vaccine works by specifically stimulating the immune system of the vaccinated person, causing the production of substances in the blood called antibodies. The antibodies kill the germ that causes meningococcal disease, *N. meningitidis*. If a vaccinated person is infected by *N. meningitidis*, their immune system is usually ready to destroy it.

When it should not be used:

If you or your child are allergic (hypersensitive) to the active substances or any of the other ingredients of BEXSERO

What the medicinal ingredients are:

The active substances are:  
 50 mcg of recombinant *Neisseria meningitidis* group B NHBA fusion protein  
 50 mcg of recombinant *Neisseria meningitidis* group B NadA protein  
 50 mcg of recombinant *Neisseria meningitidis* group B fHbp fusion protein  
 25 mcg of Outer Membrane Vesicles *Neisseria meningitidis* group B strain NZ98/254

Antigens are adsorbed on aluminum hydroxide (0.5 mg aluminum).

(mcg = micrograms)

What the important nonmedicinal ingredients are:

Sodium chloride, histidine, sucrose, water for injections.

*For a full listing of non-medicinal ingredients, see Part I of the Product Monograph.*

What dosage forms are available?

Each dose of 0.5 mL is a suspension for intramuscular injection provided in a prefilled glass (Type I) syringe. Syringes are available in packages containing either one or ten syringes, supplied with or without needles.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

BEFORE you or your child receive BEXSERO, talk to your doctor/pharmacist/nurse if:

- you or your child have a severe infection with a high temperature. If this is the case, then vaccination will be postponed. The presence of a minor infection, such as a cold, should not require postponement of the vaccination, but talk to your doctor/pharmacist/nurse first.
- If you receive treatment that blocks the part of the immune system known as complement activation, such as eculizumab. Even if you have been vaccinated with BEXSERO you remain at increased risk of disease caused by the *Neisseria meningitidis* group B bacteria.
- you are pregnant or breast feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor/pharmacist/nurse for advice before BEXSERO is given.
- you have hemophilia or any other condition that may slow down the clotting of your blood, such as treatment with blood thinners (anticoagulants).
- your child was born prematurely (before or at 28 weeks of pregnancy), particularly with breathing difficulties. Stopping breathing or irregular breathing for a short time may be more common in the first three days following vaccination in these babies and they may need special monitoring.
- you or your child have an allergy to the antibiotic kanamycin. If present, the kanamycin level in the vaccine is low. If you or your child may have allergy to kanamycin, talk to your doctor/pharmacist/nurse first.

Fainting, feeling faint or other stress-related reactions can occur as a response to any needle injection. Tell your doctor or nurse if you have experienced this kind of reaction previously.

Tell your doctor/pharmacist/nurse if you know that you or your child is allergic to latex. The tip cap of the syringe may contain natural rubber latex. Although the risk for developing allergic reactions is very small, your doctor/pharmacist/nurse should consider the benefit-risk prior to administering this vaccine to individuals with known history of hypersensitivity to latex.

Your doctor/pharmacist/nurse may ask you to give your child medicines that lower fever at the time and after BEXSERO has been given. This will help to reduce some of the side effects of BEXSERO.

There are limited data on the use of BEXSERO in patients with chronic medical conditions or with weakened immunity. If you or your child have weakened immunity (for example, due to the use of immunosuppressive medications, or HIV infection, or hereditary defects of the body's natural defense system), it is possible that the effectiveness of BEXSERO is reduced.

As with any vaccine, BEXSERO may not fully protect all of those who are vaccinated.

BEXSERO is not expected to provide protection against all circulating meningococcal serogroup B strains.

## INTERACTIONS WITH THIS VACCINE

Tell your doctor/pharmacist/nurse if you or your child are taking, have recently taken, or might take any other medicines, or have recently received any other vaccine.

BEXSERO can be given at the same time as any of the following vaccine antigens, either as monovalent or as combination vaccines: diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (whooping cough), *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, inactivated polio, hepatitis B, heptavalent pneumococcal conjugate, measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, and meningococcus C. Talk to your doctor/pharmacist/nurse for further information.

When BEXSERO is given at the same time as any other vaccine, the vaccines must be given at separate sites.

BEXSERO has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines. However, some of the effects mentioned under section "Side effects and what to do about them" may temporarily affect the ability to drive or use machines.

## PROPER USE OF THIS VACCINE

### Usual dose:

Your doctor/pharmacist/nurse will inject the recommended dose (0.5 mL) of the vaccine into your or your child's arm or leg muscle.

BEXSERO must not be mixed with any other vaccine or medicinal products in the same syringe.

### *Infants aged 2 months to 5 months at the time of first dose*

Your child should receive an initial course of two or three injections of the vaccine followed by an additional injection (booster).

The interval between vaccinations should be at least 2 months if two initial doses are given or at least 1 month if three initial doses are given. A booster will be given in the second year of life after an interval of at least 6 months from the last injection of the initial course.

### *Infants aged 6 months to 11 months of age at the time of first dose*

Your child should receive two injections of the vaccine, given at least 2 months apart. A booster should be given in the second year of life, after an interval of at least 2 months from the last dose. The need for further injections has not been established.

### *Children aged 12 months to 23 months at the time of first dose*

Your child should receive two injections of the vaccine, given at least 2 months apart. The need for further injections has not been established.

### *Children aged 2 years to 10 years at the time of first dose*

Your child should receive two injections, given at least 1 month apart. The need for a third injection has not been established.

### *Adolescents and Adults aged 11 years through 25 years at the time of first dose*

Individuals aged 11 through 25 years should receive two injections of the vaccine. The interval between each injection should be at least 1 month. The need for a third injection has not been established.

Make sure that you or your child gets all doses. This allows you or your child to get the full benefits of BEXSERO.

### Overdose:

In case of vaccine overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

### Missed Dose:

If you forget to go back to the doctor/pharmacist/nurse at the scheduled time ask the doctor/pharmacist/nurse for advice.

If you have any further questions on the use of BEXSERO, ask your doctor/pharmacist/nurse.

## **SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Like all vaccines, BEXSERO can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

When BEXSERO is given to you or your child, the very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people) that you or your child may get (reported in all age groups) are:

- pain/tenderness, redness, swelling, or hardness of the skin at the injection site.

The following side effects may also occur after receiving this vaccine.

### **Infants and children (2 months to 10 years of age)**

Very common (these may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- loss of appetite
- tenderness or discomfort at the injection site (including severe injection site tenderness resulting in crying when injected limb is moved)
- skin rash (uncommon after booster)
- sleepiness
- feeling irritable
- unusual crying
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- headache
- painful joints

Uncommon (these may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- high fever ( $\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- seizures (including febrile seizures)
- vomiting (after booster)
- dry skin, itchy rash, skin rash
- paleness (rare after booster)
- itchy rash, skin rash

Rare (these may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Kawasaki disease which may include symptoms such as fever that lasts for more than five days, associated with a skin rash on the trunk of the body, and sometimes followed by a peeling of the skin on the hands and fingers, swollen glands in the neck, red eyes, lips, throat and tongue.

### **Adolescents and Adults (11 years of age and older)**

Very common (these may affect more than 1 in 10 people).

- pain at the injection site resulting in inability to perform normal daily activity
- painful muscles and joints
- nausea
- generally feeling unwell
- headache

Side effects that have been reported during marketed use include:

- Allergic reactions that may include severe swelling of the lips, mouth, throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing), difficulty breathing with wheezing or coughing, rash, loss of consciousness and very low blood pressure;
- collapse (sudden onset of muscle floppiness), less responsive than usual or lack of awareness, and paleness or bluish skin discoloration in young children;
- feeling faint or fainting;
- fever (adolescents from 11 years of age and adults); injection site reactions like extensive swelling of the vaccinated limb, blisters at or around the injection site and hard lump at the injection site (which may persist for more than one month).

If any of the noted side effects becomes serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor/pharmacist/nurse immediately.

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking BEXSERO, contact your doctor/pharmacist/nurse.*

### **REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS**

To monitor vaccine safety, the Public Health Agency of Canada collects case reports on adverse events following immunization.

#### **For health care professionals:**

If a patient experiences an adverse event following immunization, please complete the appropriate Adverse Events following Immunization (AEFI) Form and send it to your local health unit in your province/territory.

#### **For the General Public:**

Should you experience an adverse event following immunization, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist to complete the Adverse Events following Immunization (AEFI) Form.

If you have any questions or have difficulties contacting your local health unit, please contact Vaccine Safety Section at Public Health Agency of Canada:

By toll-free telephone: 866-844-0018

By toll-free fax: 866-844-5931

Email: [caefi@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:caefi@phac-aspc.gc.ca)

Web: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/vs-sv/index-eng.php>

Mail:

The Public Health Agency of Canada

Vaccine Safety Section

130 Colonnade Road, A/L 6502A

Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

**NOTE:** *Should you require information related to the management of the side effect, please contact your health care provider before notifying the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada does not provide medical advice.*

## **HOW TO STORE IT**

Store in a refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C. Do not freeze. Do not use vaccine that may have been frozen. Protect from light. Do not use BEXSERO after the expiry date. Keep out of reach of children.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found at: [www.gsk.ca](http://www.gsk.ca) or by contacting the sponsor, GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

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This leaflet was prepared by GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

Last revised: January 4, 2019

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