

Amphotericin B

am-foe-TER-i-sin bee

Brand Name: Amphotec, Fungizone, AmBisome, Abelecet, Amphotec

Drug Class: Opportunistic Infection and Other Drugs

Amphotericin B, also known as Fungizone or Amphotec, belongs to the class of medicines called antifungals. Fungi are organisms that can cause infection in humans. Antifungals kill fungi or stop fungi from multiplying or spreading. Fungal infections occur more often in patients with weakened immune systems, including people with HIV, than in people with healthy immune systems. Fungal infections may also be more severe in patients with weakened immune systems, including people with HIV.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Amphotericin B is approved by the FDA for the treatment of certain types of serious fungal infections. Amphotericin B is also used to prevent future fungal infections in HIV infected patients who have had serious fungal infections in the past.

Dosage Form/Administration

Amphotericin B comes in powder form that is mixed with sterile water and dextrose and is given by intravenous infusion. Amphotericin B should be administered by a doctor or nurse.

Contraindications

Individuals who have kidney disease or who are receiving chemotherapy or radiation treatment should tell a doctor before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Most individuals taking amphotericin B will experience unwanted effects. The two most common side effects are a bad reaction when the drug is given and kidney problems.

When IV amphotericin B is given, individuals may experience fever, shaking chills, low blood pressure, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, headache, and difficulty breathing. This generally occurs within 1 to 3 hours of receiving amphotericin. Rarely, amphotericin B is associated with a more serious allergic reaction.

Kidney problems are a common side effect in individuals taking amphotericin B. Generally, kidney function returns to normal after individuals stop taking amphotericin. However, individuals may need to stop taking amphotericin B and switch to another drug because of kidney damage. Other

forms of amphotericin B have been developed that do not damage the kidney as much as traditional amphotericin B. These forms are sold under the names AmBisome, Abelecet, and Amphotec. Individuals who cannot take traditional amphotericin B may be able to take one of these other forms.

Amphotericin B may also cause wheezing or trouble breathing; tightness in the chest; skin rash; itching; irregular heartbeat; muscle cramps or pain; pain at the site of injection; sore throat; unusual tiredness or weakness; unusual bleeding or bruising; numbness, tingling, pain, or weakness in hands or feet; hearing loss or ringing in the ears; and blurred or double vision.

Individuals should tell a doctor if they have any of these side effects. Individuals taking this medicine should ask a doctor about medicines that may be taken to lessen these side effects.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Amphotericin B, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Amphotericin B AND HIV Infections.

Amphotericin B



Manufacturer Information

Fungizone

Bristol - Myers Squibb Co
PO Box 4500
Princeton, NJ 08543-4500
(800) 321-1335

Amphotericin B

Bristol - Myers Squibb Co
PO Box 4500
Princeton, NJ 08543-4500
(800) 321-1335

Amphocin

Pfizer Inc
235 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017-5755
(800) 438-1985

Abelecet

Enzon, Inc.
20 Kingsbridge Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854-3969
(908) 541-8600

Amphotec

Oryx Pharmaceuticals Inc.
6500 Kitimat Road
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

AmBisome

Fujisawa Healthcare Inc
Parkway Center North / 3 Parkway North
Deerfield, IL 60015-2548
(800) 727-7003

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET