



(Updated 2/6/22)

AIMOVIG™ (ERENUMAB)

Aimovig, also known as erenumab, is a prescription medication by Amgen for the preventive treatment of migraine in adults. Aimovig was FDA approved May 2018. This page is designed to answer some of the frequently asked questions about Aimovig, as well as provide some helpful resources. Aimovig is given as a self-administered auto-injection to be taken monthly.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS & WEBSITES (USA)

- Amgen Safety Net Foundation Tel: 888-762-6436
- Amgen Safety Net Foundation Fax: 866-549-7239
- Amgen Registered Nurse Tel: 800-772-6436
- Aimovig Access Card Tel: 833-246-6844
- Amgen Safety Net Foundation website: www.amgensafetynetfoundation.com
- Aimovig Ally Access Card website: www.aimovigaccesscard.com
- Aimovig website: www.aimovig.com

MEDICATION INFORMATION

1. **Does the injection hurt?**

A: Most patients are saying either it doesn't hurt at all or it has a little sting (less than with an Imitrex injection). However, your individual experience may be different. If it hurts you can sometimes minimize this by icing ahead of time, scratching another area of your leg to distract yourself, or leaving the medication out to warm up a bit longer than 30 mins.

2. **Where do I inject Aimovig?**

A: There are three locations for this – the top of the thighs, the stomach, the upper arms.

3. **How do I store/handle Aimovig?**

A: Aimovig should be kept in the refrigerator (36-46°F, 2-8°C) until you are ready to use it. Then take it out and allow it to reach room temperature (68-77°F, 20-25°C) for at least 30mins immediately before injecting. Do not heat, freeze or shake it. Once at room temperature it cannot be put back in the fridge. After 7 days at room temperature it needs to be discarded. Please refer to the Aimovig website for details: www.aimovig.com

4. **How often do I take Aimovig?**

A: Aimovig Ally's website, as well as the prescription insert, says to take the injection(s) monthly. There has been a lot of discussion about whether this means every 28 days or on the same day every month which could be anywhere from 28-31 days. According to McKesson Specialty Pharmacy, as well as several other pharmacists and doctors we have asked, it does not matter as long as you take the dose within the 28-31 day window. So, unless your doctor tells you otherwise, apparently you can do whichever is easiest for you!

5. **How long before I see results if it's going to work?**

A: This varies greatly from patient to patient; some report results quickly, but for most it takes 2-3 months. If you get at least some improvement quickly, it may continue increasing for six months.

6. **Do I have to get this from a specialty pharmacy or do the mainstream ones also carry it?**

A: Currently, most people are getting it from their local pharmacies, however some get it from specialty

pharmacies via mail. Please ensure that you receive this medication in a cooler if shipped, or that it is taken from a refrigerator if in a local pharmacy.

7. Do I have to get my first injection at my doctor's office?

A: You don't have to do this unless your doctor requires it. The injection is designed to be simple to use, however, if you aren't used to self-injecting, you may want to do it at the doctor's office first.

8. What about my teenage son/daughter? Can they take this medication?

A: Aimovig is currently only approved in the USA for adults 18 years and older. If a doctor prescribes it to a teenager or other minor that would be off-label and a personal decision you make with that doctor. There is currently a trial for children 12-17 years old that is recruiting if you want to consider that also.

9. How does Aimovig compare to Ajovy and Emgality?

Click here to see a [comparison chart between Ajovy, Aimovig & Emgality](#)

SIDE EFFECTS, SAFETY & CONTRAINDICATIONS

10. What are the known side effects?

A: The most frequently seen side effects in the clinical trials were allergic reaction and constipation. Anecdotally, in real world use there appear to be several other side effects being seen by a small but significant number of patients including fatigue, constipation, hair loss, depression, anxiety, insomnia, worsening headache, joint pain, and GI symptoms. Please go to our Files section and look at the document titled, "Aimovig Safety Side Effects Contraindications" for more details.

11. What do I do if I think I'm getting a side effect not listed?

A: Contact your doctor and if the side effect is serious then consider reporting it to the FDA at <https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch/>. Please also let us know about side effects!

12. Can I take Aimovig with Botox or other migraine preventatives?

A: Currently there are no contraindications listed for Aimovig, including Botox. Always discuss with your doctor.

13. Can I take this with cardiovascular or other vascular problems?

A: There have not been clinical trials for this, only one small trial on patients with angina (see the clinical trials document). Some reports state that it is not expected to cause problems, while others suggest Aimovig may have an impact. This is a decision to make with your doctor.

14. The injection is making me constipated. What can I do about that?

A: Constipation was a listed side effect of Aimovig, and particularly at the higher dose. There are several options to treat this. Please [click here to go to files for our document on treating constipation](#).

15. Can I take this if I am pregnant, nursing, or planning to get pregnant or nurse?

A: There have been no clinical trials done with pregnant or nursing women. We do not currently know if or how Aimovig may impact the unborn child, or if it crosses into breast milk. Always discuss this with your doctor.

16. Can I take this if I am unable to take triptans due to their side effects?

A: Currently there is no listed contraindications regarding this. Triptans narrow blood vessels whereas CGRP medications do not appear to do that. We do not know the long-term side-effects yet. There was one clinical trial involving healthy patients taking sumatriptan subQ. Information is on the Aimovig insert, point 12.2. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2018/761077s000lbl.pdf

17. Can I take this if I have medication overuse headache (MOH)?

A: According to some headache specialists, some MOH patients seem to be benefitting from CGRP and it is not contraindicated. However, bear in mind that MOH patients were excluded from clinical trials together with patients who had hemiplegic migraines, other pain syndromes such as fibromyalgia, vascular problems, etc.

INSURANCE – USA ONLY

18. How long will it take for my insurance to cover Aimovig?

A: There is no set time for this. Some insurance companies are already covering it. Others require a prior authorization, and others will need several appeals. While you are applying to either the Aimovig Access Card Program or using the service request form, your doctor can start working on your insurance.

19. Can my doctor prescribe different doses that were FDA approved?

A: Any off-label prescribing is something that has to be discussed with your doctor. It may be challenging to get this approved through insurance and you need to be closely monitored since off-label doses have unknown consequences and side effects.

Aimovig ACCESSIBILITY – USA ONLY

20. What is the Bridge to Commercial Program?

A: This provides up to 12 months of FREE medication for eligible patients while pursuing commercial insurance coverage. This program is now easily accessible through the [Aimovig Ally Access Card](#). Medicaid/Medicare patients aren't eligible for this program.

21. What is the Amgen Safety Net Program?

A: The [Amgen Safety Net Foundation](#) provides access to Aimovig for patients whose insurance is not covering the medication and who are low income (gross family income at or below 500% of Federal Poverty Limits). Some Medicare patients are eligible for this. You can apply for this by filling out the Amgen Safety Net Foundation application for Aimovig found here:

<https://www.amgensafetynetfoundation.com/assets/pdf/AMGEN-SNF-Application-Prescription-Aimovig-Editable.pdf> It is YOUR responsibility to complete sections 1-5 as well as to sign at the bottom of page 3. Your physician needs to complete page 4 and fax it to: 866-549-7239

22. What is the Aimovig \$5 Co-pay Program?

A: This gives adult patients with commercial insurance access to Aimovig for “as little as” \$5 co-pay. There is an annual \$2,700 cap as well as some other limitations. You can access this by checking the checkbox on the Aimovig Ally Service Request Form in section one on the right-hand side underneath your insurance information, or through the [Aimovig Ally Access Card](#). Medicaid/Medicare patients aren't eligible for this program.

23. What is the “new” Aimovig Ally Access Card and what is the difference between that and the original Aimovig Ally Service Request Form?

A. The Aimovig Ally Access card is designed to meet the overwhelming response for Aimovig since FDA approval. This card can be applied for online at: www.aimovigaccesscard.com and it gives commercially insured patients immediate access to Aimovig via either the \$5 co-pay program or the Bridge program. More details on these can be found in the [Aimovig Access programs document](#). The original Service Request Form is no longer being used.

24. What happens when my 12 months “access” are over for the co-pay program?

A: The co-pay program needs to be renewed at the end of 12 months. Many patients have been contacted by Amgen about renewing well ahead of time. However, if you have not heard from anyone at the end of ten months we suggest contacting Amgen to initiate the renewal process.

25. My doctor faxed my paperwork in X days ago. Now what?

A: If your paperwork was correct and complete then it will go into a waitlist to be processed by Aimovig Ally. You will be assigned a caseworker who will call you. It's important to get a good balance of patience and follow-up in case there are any issues with your form and also in case your doctor's office doesn't submit your paperwork in a timely manner. We STRONGLY recommend you get a copy of the completed & signed form from your doctor in case you need to follow-up with the Foundation and resolve issues.

26. What other access resources are available so I can get this medication?

The Patient Advocate Foundation offers free case management assistance through their Migraine Matters program. You can complete a request for assistance at www.patientadvocate.org/MigraineMatters. In addition, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPARx) offers a single point of access to numerous patient assistance programs and healthcare resources. PPARx can be contacted at www.pparx.org or by calling 888-477-2669.

27. Are there any USA doctors close to me who are prescribing Aimovig?

A: We do not have information about specific doctor's prescribing practices, however if you are able to see a certified headache specialist it may be easier to access the medication. You can [click here to download or look at a list of every certified headache specialist](#) in the USA. If you are not able to see a certified headache specialist, which is true for most migraine patients, then we suggest finding a neurologist who is open to learning about these new medications.

HOPE FOR MIGRAINE GROUP INFORMATION

If you are not already a member you are welcome to join the [Hope for Migraine](#) group as well as our general migraine group, [Migraine Meanderings](#), for all things migraine.