

Aranesp®

darbepoetin alfa

Consumer Medicine Information

This leaflet provides important information about using Aranesp.

You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using Aranesp.

Where to find information in this leaflet:

1. Why am I using Aranesp?
2. What should I know before I use Aranesp?
3. What if I am taking other medicines?
4. How do I use Aranesp?
5. What should I know while using Aranesp?
6. Are there any side effects?
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1. Why am I using Aranesp?

Aranesp contains the active ingredient darbepoetin alfa.

Aranesp is recombinant erythropoietic protein produced by special mammalian cells.

Aranesp is used to treat anaemia. Anaemia is a condition where the blood does not contain a sufficient amount of red blood cells. The symptoms of anaemia may include fatigue, dizziness, increased heart rate, depression, nausea, loss of appetite, feeling cold, shortness of breath and pale skin colour.

Aranesp works in exactly the same way as the natural hormone erythropoietin. Erythropoietin is produced in the kidneys and

encourages bone marrow to produce more red blood cells. It will take your body some time to make more red blood cells, so it can take about four weeks before you notice any effect.

Aranesp is used to treat:

- **anaemia that is associated with chronic renal failure (kidney failure).**
- In kidney failure, the kidney does not produce enough of the natural hormone erythropoietin which can often cause anaemia. If you are on dialysis, your normal dialysis routine will not affect the ability of Aranesp to treat your anaemia.
- **anaemia in cancer patients who are receiving chemotherapy.**
- Some chemotherapy medicines can affect the bone marrow's ability to produce enough red blood cells.