

- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: anticholinesterases, centrally acting
- **SIDE-EFFECTS**
- GENERAL SIDE-EFFECTS**
- ▶ **Common or very common** Anxiety · appetite decreased · arrhythmias · asthenia · dehydration · depression · diarrhoea · dizziness · drowsiness · fall · gastrointestinal discomfort · headache · hyperhidrosis · hypersalivation · hypertension · movement disorders · nausea · skin reactions · syncope · tremor · urinary incontinence · urinary tract infection · vomiting · weight decreased
- ▶ **Uncommon** Aggression · atrioventricular block
- ▶ **Rare or very rare** Pancreatitis · seizure
- ▶ **Frequency not known** Hepatitis

#### SPECIFIC SIDE-EFFECTS

- ▶ **Common or very common**
- ▶ With oral use Confusion · gait abnormal · hallucinations · malaise · parkinsonism · sleep disorders
- ▶ **Uncommon**
- ▶ With oral use Hypotension
- ▶ With transdermal use Gastric ulcer
- ▶ **Rare or very rare**
- ▶ With oral use Angina pectoris · gastrointestinal disorders · gastrointestinal haemorrhage
- ▶ **Frequency not known**
- ▶ With transdermal use Hallucination · nightmare

**SIDE-EFFECTS, FURTHER INFORMATION** Dose should be started low and increased according to response if tolerated.

Treatment should be interrupted if dehydration resulting from prolonged vomiting or diarrhoea occurs and withheld until resolution—reiterate dose if necessary.

**Transdermal administration** is less likely to cause side-effects.

- **HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT** Manufacturer advises caution (risk of increased exposure; no information available in severe impairment).

**Dose adjustments** Manufacturer advises cautious dose titration according to individual tolerability.

#### ● RENAL IMPAIRMENT

**Dose adjustments** Titrate according to individual tolerability.

- **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS** Monitor body-weight.

#### ● DIRECTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ With transdermal use Apply patches to clean, dry, non-hairy, non-irritated skin on back, upper arm, or chest, removing after 24 hours and siting a replacement patch on a different area (avoid using the same area for 14 days).

#### ● PATIENT AND CARER ADVICE

**EXELON® PATCHES** Advise patients and carers of patch administration instructions, particularly to remove the previous day's patch before applying the new patch—consult product literature.

#### ● NATIONAL FUNDING/ACCESS DECISIONS

##### NICE decisions

- ▶ **Donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine, and memantine for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease (updated June 2018)** NICE TA217

The three acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitors donepezil, galantamine, and rivastigmine as monotherapies are recommended as options for managing mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease under all of the conditions specified below and in recommendation 1.5.5 of the NICE guideline on dementia.

If prescribing an AChE inhibitor (donepezil, galantamine, or rivastigmine), treatment should normally be started with the drug with the lowest acquisition cost (taking into account required daily dose and the price per dose once shared care has started). However, an alternative AChE inhibitor could be prescribed if it is considered appropriate when taking into account adverse

event profile, expectations about adherence, medical comorbidity, possibility of drug interactions and dosing profiles.

Healthcare professionals should not rely solely on assessment scales to determine the severity of Alzheimer's disease when the patient has learning or other disabilities, or other communication difficulties.

[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta217](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta217)

#### EXELON® PATCHES

##### Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) decisions

The *Scottish Medicines Consortium* has advised (November 2007) that *Exelon®* patches should be restricted for use in patients with moderately severe Alzheimer's disease under the conditions of the NICE guidance (September 2007) and when a transdermal patch is an appropriate choice of formulation.

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug.

#### Oral solution

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- ▶ **Rivastigmine (Non-proprietary)**

**Rivastigmine (as Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate) 2 mg per 1 ml** Rivastigmine 2mg/ml oral solution sugar free sugar-free | 120 ml [POM](#) | £96.82 DT = £96.82

#### Capsule

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- ▶ **Rivastigmine (Non-proprietary)**

**Rivastigmine (as Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate)**

**1.5 mg** Rivastigmine 1.5mg capsules | 28 capsule [POM](#) | £28.26 DT = £3.22 | 56 capsule [POM](#) | £3.82

**Rivastigmine (as Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate)**

**3 mg** Rivastigmine 3mg capsules | 28 capsule [POM](#) | £33.25 DT = £3.69 | 56 capsule [POM](#) | £4.88-£5.22

**Rivastigmine (as Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate)**

**4.5 mg** Rivastigmine 4.5mg capsules | 28 capsule [POM](#) | £33.25 DT = £32.09 | 56 capsule [POM](#) | £47.02-£66.51

**Rivastigmine (as Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate)**

**6 mg** Rivastigmine 6mg capsules | 28 capsule [POM](#) | £32.78 DT = £32.78 | 56 capsule [POM](#) | £54.34-£66.51

- ▶ **Nimvastid** (Consilient Health Ltd)

**Rivastigmine (as Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate)**

**1.5 mg** Nimvastid 1.5mg capsules | 28 capsule [POM](#) | £28.26 DT = £3.22

**Rivastigmine (as Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate) 3 mg** Nimvastid

3mg capsules | 28 capsule [POM](#) | £28.26 DT = £3.69

**Rivastigmine (as Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate)**

**4.5 mg** Nimvastid 4.5mg capsules | 28 capsule [POM](#) | £28.26 DT = £32.09

**Rivastigmine (as Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate)**

**6 mg** Nimvastid 6mg capsules | 28 capsule [POM](#) | £28.26 DT = £32.78

#### Transdermal patch

- ▶ **Almuriva** (Sandoz Ltd)

**Rivastigmine 4.6 mg per 24 hour** Almuriva 4.6mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £77.97 DT = £77.97

**Rivastigmine 9.5 mg per 24 hour** Almuriva 9.5mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £77.97 DT = £19.97

- ▶ **Alzest** (Dr Reddy's Laboratories (UK) Ltd)

**Rivastigmine 4.6 mg per 24 hour** Alzest 4.6mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £35.10 DT = £77.97

**Rivastigmine 9.5 mg per 24 hour** Alzest 9.5mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £19.97 DT = £19.97

- ▶ **Exelon** (Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd)

**Rivastigmine 4.6 mg per 24 hour** Exelon 4.6mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £77.97 DT = £77.97

**Rivastigmine 9.5 mg per 24 hour** Exelon 9.5mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £77.97 DT = £19.97

**Rivastigmine 13.3 mg per 24 hour** Exelon 13.3mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £77.97 DT = £77.97

- ▶ **Rivatev** (Teva UK Ltd)

**Rivastigmine 13.3 mg per 24 hour** Erastig 13.3mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £73.90 DT = £77.97

- ▶ **Voleze** (Advanz Pharma)

**Rivastigmine 4.6 mg per 24 hour** Voleze 4.6mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £77.97 DT = £77.97

**Rivastigmine 13.3 mg per 24 hour** Voleze 13.3mg/24hours

transdermal patches | 30 patch [POM](#) | £77.97 DT = £77.97