

MS: Myalgia, myasthenia**RESP:** Sinusitis, dyspnea**PHARMACOKINETICS****β-1a:** Onset ≤12 hr, peak 16 hr, duration 4 days, half-life 8.6 hr**β-1b:** Onset rapid, peak 2-8 hr, duration unknown, half-life 8 min-4.3 hr**INTERACTIONS****Increase:** hepatic damage—antiretrovirals (NNRTIs, NRTIs, protease inhibitors)**Increase:** myelosuppression—antineoplastics**Decrease:** clearance of zidovudine**Drug/Herb**

- Change in immunomodulation: astragalus, echinacea, melatonin

Drug/Lab Test**Interference:** vaccines, toxoids; avoid concurrent use**Increase:** LFTs**NURSING CONSIDERATIONS****Assess:**

- Blood, hepatic studies: CBC, differential, platelet counts, BUN, creatinine, ALT, urinalysis; if absolute neutrophil count <750/mm³ or if AST/ALT is 10× normal, discontinue product
- CNS symptoms: headache, fatigue, depression
- GI status: diarrhea or constipation, vomiting, abdominal pain
- Cardiac status: increased B/P, tachycardia
- Mental status: depression, depersonalization, **suicidal thoughts**, insomnia
- Lupus-like symptoms
- Multiple sclerosis symptoms

Evaluate:

- Therapeutic response: decreased symptoms of multiple sclerosis

Teach patient/family:

- With written, detailed information about product
- That blurred vision, hearing loss, sweating may occur
- That female patients may experience irregular menses, dysmenorrhea or metrorrhagia, breast pain

- To use sunscreen to prevent photosensitivity
- About injection technique, care of equipment
- **To notify prescriber of increased temperature, chills, muscle soreness, fatigue, depression, symptoms of hepatotoxicity**
- To notify prescriber if pregnancy is suspected

RARELY USED**interferon gamma-1b (Rx)**

(in-ter-feer'on)

Actimmune**Func. class.:** Biologic response modifier**Chem. class.:** Lymphokine, interleukin type**USES:** Serious infections associated with chronic granulomatous disease, osteopetrosis**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Hypersensitivity to interferon-γ, *Escherichia coli*-derived products**Precautions:** Pregnancy, breastfeeding, children <1 yr, cardiac disease, seizure disorders, CNS disorders, myelosuppression**DOSAGE AND ROUTES**

- **Adult:** SUBCUT 50 mcg/m² (1.5 million units/m²) for patients with surface area >0.5 m²; 1.5 mcg/kg/dose for patients with surface area <0.5 m²; give Monday, Wednesday, Friday for 3×/wk dosing

⚠ HIGH ALERT**ipilimumab**

(ip-i-lim'ue-mab)

Yervoy**Func. class.:** Antineoplastic; biologic response modifier