

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use DEPOCYT® safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for DEPOCYT.

DEPOCYT (cytarabine liposome injection)  
For Intrathecal Use Only  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1999

**WARNING: CHEMICAL ARACHNOIDITIS ADVERSE REACTIONS**  
*See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning*  
Chemical arachnoiditis, a syndrome manifested primarily by nausea, vomiting, headache and fever, was a common adverse event in all clinical studies. If left untreated, chemical arachnoiditis may be fatal. Patients receiving DepoCyt should be treated concurrently with dexamethasone to mitigate the symptoms of chemical arachnoiditis. (5.1, 5.2)

### -----INDICATIONS AND USAGE-----

DepoCyt is indicated for the intrathecal treatment of lymphomatous meningitis. (1)

### -----DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION-----

DepoCyt is for intrathecal use only. (2.3)

- **Induction therapy:** DepoCyt, 50 mg, administer intrathecally (intraventricular or lumbar puncture) every 14 days for 2 doses (weeks 1 and 3) (2.4)
- **Consolidation therapy:** DepoCyt, 50 mg, administer intrathecally (intraventricular or lumbar puncture) every 14 days for 3 doses (weeks 5, 7 and 9) followed by 1 additional dose at week 13 (2.4)
- **Maintenance:** DepoCyt, 50 mg, administer intrathecally (intraventricular or lumbar puncture) every 28 days for 4 doses (weeks 17, 21, 25 and 29) (2.4)

Initiate dexamethasone 4 mg twice a day either by mouth or intravenously for 5 days beginning on the day of DepoCyt injection. If drug related neurotoxicity develops, reduce DepoCyt to 25 mg. If neurotoxicity persists, discontinue DepoCyt. (2.4)

### -----DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS-----

- Single-dose vial containing 50 mg/5 mL (10 mg/mL) of cytarabine liposome injection (3)

### -----CONTRAINDICATIONS-----

- Hypersensitive to cytarabine or any component of the formulation with active meningeal infection. (4)

### -----WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS-----

- Neurotoxicity: Myelopathy and other neurologic toxicity may occur. Reduce the dose or discontinue DepoCyt. (5.2)
- Embryo-fetal Toxicity: May cause fetal harm. Advise women of potential harm to a fetus and to avoid pregnancy if receiving DepoCyt. (5.4)

### -----ADVERSE REACTIONS-----

Most common adverse reactions (incidence  $\geq 20\%$ ) are headache, arachnoiditis, confusion, abnormal gait, convulsions, weakness, pyrexia, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, constipation, and back pain. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Sigma-Tau Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at 1-888-393-4584 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Revised: 12/2014

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## FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### WARNING: CHEMICAL ARACHNOIDITIS ADVERSE REACTIONS

Chemical arachnoiditis, a syndrome manifested primarily by nausea, vomiting, headache and fever, was a common adverse event in all clinical studies. If left untreated, chemical arachnoiditis may be fatal. Patients receiving DepoCyt should be treated concurrently with dexamethasone to mitigate the symptoms of chemical arachnoiditis. [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1, 5.2)]

#### 1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

DepoCyt<sup>®</sup> (cytarabine liposome injection) is indicated for the intrathecal treatment of lymphomatous meningitis.

#### 2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

##### 2.1 Preparation and Administration Precautions

DepoCyt is a cytotoxic anticancer drug and, as with other potentially toxic compounds, caution should be used in handling DepoCyt. The use of gloves is recommended. If DepoCyt suspension contacts the skin, wash immediately with soap and water. If it contacts mucous membranes, flush thoroughly with water.

##### 2.2 Preparation and Administration

No further reconstitution or dilution is required. DepoCyt particles have a tendency to settle with time. Vials of DepoCyt should be allowed to warm to room temperature and gently agitated or inverted to re-suspend the particles immediately prior to withdrawal from the vial. Avoid aggressive agitation.

DepoCyt should be withdrawn from the vial immediately before administration. DepoCyt is a single dose vial and does not contain any preservative. DepoCyt should be used within 4 hours of withdrawal from the vial. Unused portions of each vial should be discarded properly [see *How Supplied/ Storage and Handling* (16)]. Do not save any unused portions for later administration. Do not mix DepoCyt with any other medications.

##### 2.3 Dosing Precautions

In-line filters must not be used when administering DepoCyt. DepoCyt is administered directly into the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) via an intraventricular reservoir or by direct injection into the lumbar sac. DepoCyt should be injected slowly over a period of 1-5 minutes. Following drug administration by lumbar puncture, the patient should be instructed to lie flat for 1 hour. Patients should be observed by the physician for immediate toxic reactions.

##### 2.4 Dosing Regimen

For the treatment of lymphomatous meningitis, DepoCyt 50 mg (one vial of DepoCyt) is recommended to be given according to the following schedule:

<i>Induction therapy</i>	DepoCyt, 50 mg, administered intrathecally (intraventricular or lumbar puncture) every 14 days for 2 doses (weeks 1 and 3).
<i>Consolidation therapy</i>	DepoCyt, 50 mg, administered intrathecally (intraventricular or lumbar puncture) every 14 days for 3 doses (weeks 5, 7 and 9) followed by 1 additional dose at week 13.
<i>Maintenance</i>	DepoCyt, 50 mg, administered intrathecally (intraventricular or lumbar puncture) every 28 days for 4 doses (weeks 17, 21, 25 and 29).

Patients should be started on dexamethasone 4 mg twice a day either by mouth or intravenously for 5 days beginning on the day of DepoCyt injection.

If drug related neurotoxicity develops, the dose should be reduced to 25 mg. If it persists, treatment with DepoCyt should be discontinued.

### 3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Ready-to-use, single dose vial containing 50 mg/5 mL (10 mg/mL) of cytarabine liposome injection.

### 4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

DepoCyt® (cytarabine liposome injection) is contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to cytarabine or any component of the formulation, and in patients with active meningeal infection.

### 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

#### 5.1 Chemical Arachnoiditis

Chemical arachnoiditis, a syndrome manifested primarily by nausea, vomiting, headache and fever, has been a common adverse event in all studies. If chemical arachnoiditis is suspected, exclude other inflammatory, infectious, or neoplastic conditions. If left untreated, chemical arachnoiditis may be fatal. The incidence and severity of chemical arachnoiditis can be reduced by coadministration of dexamethasone. Patients receiving DepoCyt should be treated concurrently with dexamethasone to mitigate the symptoms of chemical arachnoiditis [*see Dosage and Administration (2)*].

Toxic effects may be related to a single dose or to cumulative administration. Because toxic effects can occur at any time during therapy (although they are most likely to occur within 5 days of drug administration), patients receiving intrathecal therapy with DepoCyt should be monitored continuously for the development of neurotoxicity. If patients develop neurotoxicity, reduce subsequent doses of DepoCyt. If neurotoxicity persists, discontinue DepoCyt [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*]

Hydrocephalus has also been reported, possibly precipitated by arachnoiditis.

Arachnoiditis is an expected and well-documented side effect of both neoplastic meningitis and of intrathecal chemotherapy. The incidence of severe and life-threatening arachnoiditis in patients receiving DepoCyt was 19% (48/257) in all patients and 30% (10/33) in patients with lymphomatous meningitis. In the early dose-finding study, chemical arachnoiditis was observed in 100% of cycles without dexamethasone prophylaxis. When concurrent dexamethasone was administered, chemical arachnoiditis was observed in 33% of cycles.

#### 5.2 Neurotoxicity

Intrathecal administration of cytarabine may cause myelopathy and other neurologic toxicity and can rarely lead to a permanent neurologic deficit. Administration of intrathecal cytarabine in combination with other chemotherapeutic agents or with cranial/spinal irradiation may increase this risk of neurotoxicity.

Blockage to CSF flow may result in increased free cytarabine concentrations in the CSF and an increased risk of neurotoxicity. Therefore, as with any intrathecal cytotoxic therapy, consideration should be given to the need for assessment of CSF flow before treatment is started.

Following intrathecal administration of DepoCyt, central nervous system toxicity, including persistent extreme somnolence, hemiplegia, visual disturbances including blindness which may be total and permanent, deafness and cranial nerve palsies have been reported. Symptoms and signs of peripheral neuropathy, such as pain, numbness, paresthesia, weakness, and impaired bowel and bladder control have also been observed. In some cases, a combination of neurological signs and symptoms has been reported as Cauda Equina Syndrome.

If patients develop neurotoxicity, reduce subsequent doses of DepoCyt or discontinue DepoCyt. Headache, nausea, and fever are expected in early signs of neurotoxicity.

#### 5.3 Transient Elevations in CSF Protein and CSF White Blood Cells

Transient elevations in CSF protein and white blood cell counts have been observed in patients following DepoCyt administration.

#### 5.4 Embryo-fetal Toxicity

Cytarabine, the active component of DepoCyt, can cause fetal harm if a pregnant woman is exposed to the drug systemically. The systemic exposure of cytarabine following intrathecal administration of DepoCyt is

negligible. Cytarabine was teratogenic in mice and rats. Cytarabine was embryotoxic in mice when administered during the period of organogenesis. If this drug is used during pregnancy or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, the patient should be apprised of the potential harm to a fetus. [See Use in Specific Populations, Sec. 8.1]

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following serious adverse reactions are described in greater detail in other sections of the label:

- Chemical Arachnoiditis [see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]
- Neurotoxicity [see Warnings and Precautions (5.2)]
- Transient elevations in CSF protein and CSF white blood cells [see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)]

### 6.1 Most Frequently Reported Reactions

After intrathecal administration of cytarabine the most frequently reported reactions ( $\geq 10\%$ ) are headache NOS, nausea, vomiting NOS, arachnoiditis, weakness, confusion, pyrexia, fatigue, constipation, back pain, gait abnormal NOS, convulsions NOS, dizziness NOS, lethargy, pain in limb, insomnia, urinary tract infection NOS, neck pain, death NOS, pain, memory impairment, dehydration, anemia NOS, diarrhea NOS, appetite decreased NOS, thrombocytopenia, edema peripheral, arthralgia, neck stiffness, vision blurred, muscle weakness, neutropenia, hypoesthesia, agitation, and dyspnea NOS.

### 6.2 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice. The toxicity database consists of the observations made during Phase 1-4 studies. The most common adverse reactions in all patients and in patients with lymphoma are shown in Table 1. The incidences of symptoms possibly reflecting meningeal irritation are shown in Table 2.

**Table 1. Incidence of adverse reactions occurring in > 10% of patients in all Phase 1-4 adult study patients and in patients with lymphomatous meningitis receiving DepoCyt 50 mg or an active comparator**

System Organ Class / Preferred Term	All DepoCyt (N=257)	Lymphoma	
		DepoCyt (N=33)	Ara-C (N=28)
<b>Nervous System Disorders</b>			
Headache NOS	144 (56%)	17 (52%)	9 (32%)
Arachnoiditis	108 (42%)	14 (42%)	10 (36%)
Confusion	86 (33%)	12 (36%)	3 (11%)
Gait abnormal NOS	60 (23%)	7 (21%)	8 (29%)
Convulsions NOS	52 (20%)	7 (21%)	1 (4%)
Dizziness NOS	47 (18%)	7 (21%)	6 (21%)
Memory impairment	36 (14%)	4 (12%)	1 (4%)
Hypoesthesia	26 (10%)	4 (12%)	3 (11%)
Tremor	22 (9%)	5 (15%)	5 (18%)
Peripheral neuropathy NOS	9 (4%)	4 (12%)	1 (4%)
Syncope	8 (3%)	0 (0%)	3 (11%)
Neuropathy NOS	7 (3%)	3 (9%)	3 (11%)
Peripheral sensory neuropathy	7 (3%)	2 (6%)	3 (11%)
Reflexes abnormal	7 (3%)	0 (0%)	3 (11%)
<b>General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions</b>			
Weakness	103 (40%)	13 (39%)	15 (54%)
Pyrexia	81 (32%)	15 (45%)	12 (43%)
Fatigue	64 (25%)	9 (27%)	13 (46%)
Lethargy	41 (16%)	4 (12%)	4 (14%)
Death NOS	35 (14%)	9 (27%)	5 (18%)

System Organ Class / Preferred Term	Lymphoma					
	All DepoCyt (N=257)		DepoCyt (N=33)		Ara-C (N=28)	
Pain NOS	35	(14%)	3	(9%)	5	(18%)
Edema peripheral	27	(11 %)	6	(18%)	7	(25%)
Fall	12	(5%)	0	(0%)	3	(11%)
Mucosal inflammation NOS	8	(3%)	4	(12%)	2	(7%)
Edema NOS	6	(2%)	1	(3%)	6	(21%)
<b>Gastrointestinal Disorders</b>						
Nausea	117	(46%)	11	(33%)	15	(54%)
Vomiting NOS	112	(44%)	11	(33%)	9	(32%)
Constipation	64	(25%)	8	(24%)	7	(25%)
Diarrhea NOS	31	(12%)	9	(27%)	9	(32%)
Abdominal pain NOS	22	(9%)	5	(15%)	4	(14%)
Dysphagia	20	(8%)	3	(9%)	3	(11 %)
Hemorrhoids	8	(3%)	0	(0%)	3	(11 %)
<b>Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders</b>						
Back pain	61	(24%)	7	(21%)	5	(18%)
Pain in limb	39	(15%)	4	(12%)	8	(29%)
Neck pain	36	(14%)	5	(15%)	3	(11%)
Arthralgia	29	(11%)	3	(9%)	4	(14%)
Neck stiffness	28	(11%)	2	(6%)	4	(14%)
Muscle weakness NOS	25	(10%)	5	(15%)	2	(7%)
<b>Psychiatric Disorders</b>						
Insomnia	35	(14%)	6	(18%)	7	(25%)
Agitation	26	(10%)	5	(15%)	2	(7%)
Depression	21	(8%)	6	(18%)	4	(14%)
Anxiety	17	(7%)	1	(3%)	3	(11%)
<b>Infections and Infestations</b>						
Urinary tract infection NOS	35	(14%)	6	(18%)	5	(18%)
Pneumonia NOS	16	(6%)	2	(6%)	3	(11%)
<b>Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders</b>						
Dehydration	33	(13%)	6	(18%)	3	(11%)
Appetite decreased NOS	29	(11%)	4	(12%)	3	(11%)
Hyponatremia	18	(7%)	4	(12%)	1	(4%)
Hypokalemia	17	(7%)	5	(15%)	2	(7%)
Hyperglycemia	15	(6%)	4	(12%)	2	(7%)
Anorexia	14	(5%)	1	(3%)	5	(18%)
<b>Investigations</b>						
Platelet count decreased	8	(3%)	0	(0%)	3	(11 %)
<b>Renal and Urinary Disorders</b>						
Incontinence NOS	19	(7%)	3	(9%)	5	(18%)
Urinary retention	14	(5%)	0	(0%)	3	(11%)
<b>Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders</b>						
Dyspnea NOS	25	(10%)	4	(12%)	6	(21%)
Cough	17	(7%)	3	(9%)	6	(21%)
<b>Eye Disorders</b>						
Vision blurred	29	(11%)	4	(12%)	4	(14%)
<b>Blood and Lymphatic Disorders</b>						
Anemia NOS	31	(12%)	6	(18%)	5	(18%)
Thrombocytopenia	27	(11%)	8	(24%)	9	(32%)

System Organ Class / Preferred Term	All DepoCyt (N=257)	Lymphoma	
		DepoCyt (N=33)	Ara-C (N=28)
Neutropenia	26 (10%)	12 (36%)	7 (25%)
<b>Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders</b>			
Contusion	6 (2%)	1 (3%)	3 (11%)
Pruritus NOS	6 (2%)	0 (0%)	4 (14%)
Sweating increased	6 (2%)	1 (3%)	3 (11%)
<b>Vascular Disorders</b>			
Hypotension NOS	21 (8%)	6 (18%)	2 (7%)
Hypertension NOS	15 (6%)	5 (15%)	1 (4%)
<b>Ear and Labyrinth Disorders</b>			
Hypacusis	15 (6%)	6 (18%)	3 (11%)
<b>Cardiac Disorders</b>			
Tachycardia NOS	22 (9%)	0 (0%)	5 (18%)
<b>Neoplasms Benign, Malignant and Unspecified (Incl Cysts and Polyps)</b>			
Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma NOS	1 (0%)	1 (3%)	3 (11%)

**Table 2. Incidence of adverse reactions possibly reflecting meningeal irritation occurring in > 10% of all studied adult patients receiving DepoCyt 50 mg or an active comparator\***

System Organ Class / Preferred Term	DepoCyt (N=257)	MTX (N=78)	Ara-C (N=28)
<b>Nervous System Disorders</b>			
Headache NOS	145 (56%)	33 (42%)	9 (32%)
Arachnoiditis	108 (42%)	15 (19%)	10 (36%)
Convulsions NOS	56 (22%)	11 (14%)	1 (4%)
<b>Gastrointestinal Disorders</b>			
Nausea	117 (46%)	24 (31%)	15 (54%)
Vomiting NOS	112 (44%)	22 (28%)	9 (32%)
<b>Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders</b>			
Back pain	61 (24%)	15 (19%)	5 (18%)
Neck pain	36 (14%)	6 (8%)	3 (11%)
Neck stiffness	28 (11%)	1 (1%)	4 (14%)
<b>General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions</b>			
Pyrexia	81 (32%)	15 (19%)	12 (43%)

\* Hydrocephalus acquired, CSF pleocytosis and meningism occurred in ≤ 10% of all studied adult patients receiving DepoCyt or an active comparator

During the clinical studies, 2 deaths related to DepoCyt were reported. One patient at the 125 mg dose level died of encephalopathy 36 hours after receiving an intraventricular dose of DepoCyt. This patient, however, was also receiving concomitant whole brain irradiation and had previously received intraventricular methotrexate. The other patient received DepoCyt, 50 mg by the intraventricular route and developed focal seizures progressing to status epilepticus. This patient died approximately 8 weeks after the last dose of study medication. In the controlled lymphoma study, the patient incidence of seizures was higher in the DepoCyt group (4/17, 23.5%) than in the cytarabine group (1/16, 6.3%). The death of 1 additional patient was considered “possibly” related to DepoCyt. He was a 63-year-old with extensive lymphoma involving the

nasopharynx, brain, and meninges with multiple neurologic deficits who died of apparent disease progression 4 days after his second dose of DepoCyt.

## 7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

No formal assessments of pharmacokinetic drug-drug interactions between DepoCyt and other agents have been conducted. Concomitant administration of DepoCyt with other antineoplastic agents administered by the intrathecal route has not been studied. With intrathecal cytarabine and other cytotoxic agents administered intrathecally, enhanced neurotoxicity has been associated with coadministration of drugs.

## 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

### 8.1 Pregnancy Category D [see Warnings and Precautions (5.8)]

#### *Risk Summary*

There are no studies assessing the reproductive toxicity of DepoCyt. The systemic exposure of cytarabine following intrathecal administration of DepoCyt is negligible. Cytarabine can cause fetal harm if a pregnant woman is exposed to the drug systemically. Three anecdotal cases of major limb malformations have been reported in infants after their mothers received intravenous cytarabine, alone or in combination with other agents, during the first trimester. Advise women of childbearing potential to avoid becoming pregnant while receiving DepoCyt. If this drug is used during pregnancy or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, the patient should be apprised of the potential harm to a fetus.

#### *Animal Data*

Cytarabine was teratogenic in mice (cleft palate, phocomelia, deformed appendages, skeletal abnormalities) when doses  $\geq 2$  mg/kg/day were administered IP during the period of organogenesis (about 0.2 times the recommended human dose on a  $\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$  basis), and in rats (deformed appendages) when 20 mg/kg was administered as a single IP dose on day 12 of gestation (about 4 times the recommended human dose on a  $\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$  basis). Single IP doses of 50 mg/kg in rats (about 10 times the recommended human dose on a  $\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$  basis) on day 14 of gestation reduced prenatal and postnatal brain size and permanent impairment of learning ability.

Cytarabine was embryotoxic in mice when administered during the period of organogenesis. Embryotoxicity was characterized by decreased fetal weight at 0.5 mg/kg/day (about 0.05 times the recommended human dose on  $\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$  basis), and increased early and late resorptions and decreased live litter sizes at 8 mg/kg/day (approximately equal to the recommended human dose on  $\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$  basis).

### 8.3 Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether cytarabine is excreted in human milk following intrathecal DepoCyt administration. The systemic exposure to free cytarabine following intrathecal treatment with DepoCyt was negligible. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

### 8.4 Pediatric Use

The safety and efficacy of DepoCyt in pediatric patients has not been established.

### 8.6 Hepatic and Renal Impairment

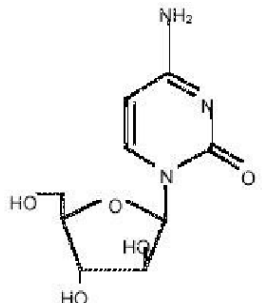
The effects of hepatic or renal impairment on the pharmacokinetics of DepoCyt have not been studied.

## 10 OVERDOSAGE

No overdoses with DepoCyt<sup>®</sup> (cytarabine liposome injection) have been reported. An overdose with DepoCyt may be associated with severe chemical arachnoiditis including encephalopathy. In an early uncontrolled study without dexamethasone prophylaxis, single doses up to 125 mg were administered. There is no antidote for overdose of intrathecal DepoCyt or unencapsulated cytarabine released from DepoCyt. Exchange of CSF with isotonic saline has been carried out in a case of intrathecal overdose of free cytarabine, and such a procedure may be considered in the case of DepoCyt overdose. Management of overdose should be directed at maintaining vital functions.

## 11 DESCRIPTION

DepoCyt<sup>®</sup> (cytarabine liposome injection) is a sterile, injectable suspension of the antimetabolite cytarabine for intrathecal administration. The chemical name of cytarabine is 4-amino-1-β-D-arabinofuranosyl-2(1H)-pyrimidinone and is also known as cytosine arabinoside. It has a molecular formula of C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and a molecular weight 243.22 g/mol. Cytarabine has the following structural formula:



DepoCyt is available as a single-dose vial containing 50 mg/5 mL (10 mg/mL) of cytarabine. DepoCyt is formulated as a sterile, non-pyrogenic, white to off-white suspension of cytarabine liposomes in 0.9% w/v sodium chloride in water for injection. Each mL contains 10 mg cytarabine, 4.4 mg cholesterol, 1.2 mg triolein, 5.7 mg dioleoylphosphatidylcholine (DOPC), and 1.0 mg dipalmitoylphosphatidylglycerol (DPPG). DepoCyt is preservative-free. The pH of the product falls within the range from 5.5 to 8.5.

Liposome drug products may behave differently from nonliposome drug products. DepoCyt (cytarabine liposome injection) is not equivalent to, and cannot be substituted for, other drug products containing cytarabine.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

DepoCyt<sup>®</sup> (cytarabine liposome injection) is a sustained-release formulation of the active ingredient cytarabine designed for direct administration into the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). Cytarabine is a cell cycle phase-specific antineoplastic agent, affecting cells only during the S-phase of cell division. Intracellularly, cytarabine is converted into cytarabine-5-triphosphate (ara-CTP), which is the active metabolite. The mechanism of action is not completely understood, but it appears that ara-CTP acts primarily through inhibition of DNA polymerase. Incorporation into DNA and RNA may also contribute to cytarabine cytotoxicity. Cytarabine is cytotoxic to proliferating mammalian cells in culture.

### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Following intrathecal administration of DepoCyt 50 mg, peak levels of free CSF cytarabine were observed within 1 hour of dosing and ranged from 30 to 50 mcg/mL. The terminal half-life for the free CSF cytarabine ranged from 5.9 to 82.4 hours. Systemic exposure to cytarabine was negligible following intrathecal administration of DepoCyt 50 mg.

#### Metabolism and Elimination

The primary route of elimination of cytarabine is metabolism to the inactive compound ara-U, followed by urinary excretion of ara-U. In contrast to systemically administered cytarabine, which is rapidly metabolized to ara-U, conversion to ara-U in the CSF is negligible after intrathecal administration because of the significantly lower cytidine deaminase activity in the CNS tissues and CSF. The CSF clearance rate of cytarabine is similar to the CSF bulk flow rate of 0.24 mL/min.

## 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

No carcinogenicity, mutagenicity or impairment of fertility studies have been conducted with DepoCyt.

Cytarabine was mutagenic in *in vitro* tests and was clastogenic *in vitro* (chromosome aberrations and SCE in human leukocytes) and *in vivo* (chromosome aberrations and SCE assay in rodent bone marrow, mouse



m micronucleus assay). Cytarabine caused the transformation of hamster embryo cells and rat H43 cells in vitro.

No studies assessing the impact of cytarabine on fertility are available in the literature. Cytarabine was clastogenic to meiotic cells; a dose-dependent increase in sperm-head abnormalities and chromosomal aberrations occurred in mice given IP cytarabine. Because the systemic exposure to free cytarabine following intrathecal treatment with DepoCyt was negligible, the risk of impaired fertility after intrathecal DepoCyt is likely to be low.

## 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

DepoCyt® (cytarabine liposome injection) was studied in 2 controlled clinical studies that enrolled patients with neoplastic meningitis.

### 14.1 Study 1 – Solid Tumors, Lymphoma, or Leukemia

The first study, which was a randomized, multi-center, multi-arm study involving a total of 99 treated patients, compared 50 mg of DepoCyt administered every 2 weeks to standard intrathecal chemotherapy administered twice a week to patients with solid tumors, lymphoma, or leukemia. For patients with lymphoma, standard therapy consisted of 50 mg of unencapsulated cytarabine given twice a week. Thirty-three lymphoma patients (17 DepoCyt, 16 cytarabine) were treated. Patients went off study if they had not achieved a complete response defined as clearing of the CSF from all previously positive sites in the absence of progression of neurological symptoms, after 4 weeks of treatment with study drug.

In the first study, complete response was prospectively defined as (1) conversion, confirmed by a blinded central pathologist, from a positive examination of the CSF for malignant cells to a negative examination on two separate occasions (at least 3 days apart, on day 29 and later) at all initially positive sites, together with (2) an absence of neurological progression during the treatment period.

The complete response rates in the first study of lymphoma are shown in Table 3. Although there was a plan for central pathology review of the data, in 4 of the 7 responding patients on the DepoCyt arm this was not accomplished and these cases were considered to have had a complete response based on the reading of an unblinded pathologist. The median overall survival of all treated patients was 99.5 days in the DepoCyt group and 63 days in the cytarabine group. In both groups the majority of patients died from progressive systemic disease, not neoplastic meningitis.

### 14.2 Study 2 – Lymphoma

The second study was a randomized, multi-center, multi-arm study involving a total of 124 treated patients with either solid tumors or lymphomas. In this study, 24 patients with lymphoma were randomized and treated with DepoCyt or cytarabine. Patients received 6 two-week induction cycles of DepoCyt 50 mg every 2 weeks or cytarabine 50 mg twice weekly. Patients then received four maintenance cycles of DepoCyt 50 mg every 4 weeks, or cytarabine 50 mg weekly for 4 weeks. In both studies, patients received concurrent treatment with dexamethasone to minimize symptoms associated with chemical arachnoiditis [see *Warnings and Precautions (5) and Dosage and Administration (2)*]. In this study, cytological response was assessed in a blinded fashion utilizing a similar definition as in the first study. The results in patients with lymphomatous meningitis are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Complete Cytological Responses in Patients with Lymphomatous Meningitis**

	DepoCyt®	Cytarabine
Study 1	7/17 (41%)	1/16 (6%)
95% CI	(18%, 67%)	(0%, 30%)
Study 2	4/12 (33%)	2/12 (17%)
95% CI	(10%, 65%)	(2%, 48%)

## 15 REFERENCES

OSHA Hazardous Drugs. OSHA. [Accessed on November 4, 2014, from <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardousdrugs/index.html>].

## 16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

DepoCyt<sup>®</sup> (cytarabine liposome injection) is supplied as a sterile, white to off-white suspension in 5 mL glass, single dose vials.

Store refrigerated at 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F). Protect from freezing and avoid aggressive agitation.

Available in individual carton containing one ready to use vial. NDC 57665-331-01.

Do not use beyond expiration date printed on the label.

DepoCyt is a genotoxic drug. Follow special handling and disposal procedures [*see References (15)*].

## 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

- Advise patients of the following expected adverse events: headache, nausea, vomiting, and fever, and about the early signs and symptoms of neurotoxicity.
- Advise patients of the importance of concurrent dexamethasone administration should be emphasized at the initiation of each cycle of DepoCyt<sup>®</sup> treatment.
- Instruct patients to seek medical attention if signs or symptoms of neurotoxicity develop, or if oral dexamethasone is not well tolerated.

For additional information, contact Sigma-Tau Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at: 1-888-393-4584.

Manufactured by:

Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc., San Diego, CA 92121

Distributed by: Sigma-Tau Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Gaithersburg, MD 20878

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