**VIVITROL® (naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension)**

**Intramuscular**

**Initial U.S. Approval: 1984**

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The recommended dose of VIVITROL is 380 mg delivered intramuscularly every 4 weeks or once a month. The injection should be administered by a healthcare provider as an intramuscular (IM) gluteal injection, alternating buttocks for each subsequent injection, using the carton components provided (2 and 16.1).

Prior to initiating VIVITROL, an opioid-free duration of a minimum of 7-10 days is recommended for patients, to avoid precipitation of opioid withdrawal that may be severe enough to require hospitalization (5.3).

**VIVITROL must not be administered intravenously or subcutaneously.**

The entire dose pack should be stored in the refrigerator (2-8°C, 36-46°F) (2.2 and 16.1).

Do not expose the product to temperatures above 25°C (77°F). VIVITROL should not be frozen (2.4).

**DOSE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

VIVITROL is an injectable suspension containing 380 mg of naltrexone in a microsphere formulation and 4 mL diluent (3).

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

VIVITROL is contraindicated in:

- Patients receiving opioid analgesics (5.3).
- Patients with current physiologic opioid dependence (5.3).
- Patients in acute opioid withdrawal (5.3).
- Any individual who has failed the naloxone challenge test or has a positive urine screen for opioids (4).
- Patients who have previously exhibited hypersensitivity to naltrexone, polylactide-co-glycolide (PLG), carboxymethylcellulose, or any other components of the diluent (4).

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

- VIVITROL is indicated for the treatment of alcohol dependence in patients who are able to abstain from alcohol in an outpatient setting prior to initiation of treatment with VIVITROL. Patients should not be actively drinking at the time of initial VIVITROL administration (1.1).
- VIVITROL is indicated for the prevention of relapse to opioid dependence, following opioid detoxification (1.2).
- VIVITROL should be part of a comprehensive management program that includes psychosocial support (1).

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

- **Vulnerability to Opioid Overdose:** Following VIVITROL treatment opioid tolerance is reduced from pretreatment baseline, and patients are vulnerable to potentially fatal overdose at the end of a dosing interval, after missing a dose, or after discontinuing VIVITROL treatment. Attempts to overcome blockade may also lead to fatal overdose (5.1).
- **Injection Site Reactions:** In some cases, injection site reactions may be very severe. Some cases of injection site reactions required surgical intervention (5.2).
- **Precipitation of Opioid Withdrawal:** Opioid-dependent and opioid-using patients, including those being treated for alcohol dependence, should be opioid-free before starting VIVITROL treatment, and should notify healthcare providers of any recent opioid use. An opioid-free duration of a minimum of 7-10 days is recommended for patients to avoid precipitation of opioid withdrawal that may be severe enough to require hospitalization (5.3).
- **Hepatotoxicity:** Cases of hepatitis and clinically significant liver dysfunction were observed in association with VIVITROL treatment during the clinical development program and in the postmarketing period. Discontinue use of VIVITROL in the event of symptoms or signs of acute hepatitis (5.4).
- **Depression and Suicidality:** Monitor patients for the development of depression or suicidal thinking (5.5).
- **When Reversal of VIVITROL Blockade Is Required for Pain Management:** In an emergency situation in patients receiving VIVITROL, suggestions for pain management include regional analgesia or use of non-opioid analgesics (5.6).

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The adverse events seen most frequently in association with VIVITROL therapy for alcohol dependence (i.e., those occurring in ≥5% and at least twice as frequently with VIVITROL than placebo) include nausea, vomiting, injection site reactions (including induration, pruritus, nodules and swelling), muscle cramps, dizziness or syncope, somnolence or sedation, anorexia, decreased appetite or other appetite disorders (6).

The adverse events seen most frequently in association with VIVITROL therapy in opioid-dependent patients (i.e., those occurring in ≥2% of patients treated with VIVITROL and at least twice as frequently with VIVITROL than placebo) were hepatic enzyme abnormalities, injection site pain, nasopharyngitis, insomnia, and toothache (6).

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Alkermes, Inc. at 1-800-VIVITROL (1-800-848-4876) and/or email: usmedinfo@alkermes.com or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS**

Naltrexone antagonizes the effects of opioid-containing medicines, such as cough and cold remedies, antidiarrheal preparations, and opioid analogues (7).

**USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

- **VIVITROL pharmacokinetics have not been evaluated in subjects with severe hepatic impairment (8.7).**
- **Caution is recommended in administering VIVITROL to patients with moderate to severe renal impairment (8.6).**

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved Medication Guide.
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FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Treatment with VIVITROL should be part of a comprehensive management program that includes psychosocial support.

1.1 Alcohol Dependence

VIVITROL is indicated for the treatment of alcohol dependence in patients who are able to abstain from alcohol in an outpatient setting prior to initiation of treatment with VIVITROL. Patients should not be actively drinking at the time of initial VIVITROL administration.

1.2 Opioid Dependence

VIVITROL is indicated for the prevention of relapse to opioid dependence, following opioid detoxification.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

VIVITROL must be prepared and administered by a healthcare provider.

Prior to initiating VIVITROL, an opioid-free duration of a minimum of 7–10 days is recommended for patients, to avoid precipitation of opioid withdrawal that may be severe enough to require hospitalization [see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)].

The recommended dose of VIVITROL is 380 mg delivered intramuscularly every 4 weeks or once a month. The injection should be administered by a healthcare provider as an intramuscular (IM) gluteal injection, alternating buttocks for each subsequent injection, using the carton components provided [see How Supplied/Storage and Handling (16)]. The needles provided in the carton are customized needles. VIVITROL must not be injected using any other needle. The needle lengths (either 1 1/2 or 2 inches) may not be adequate in every patient because of body habitus. Body habitus should be assessed prior to each injection for each patient to assure that needle length is adequate for intramuscular administration. For patients with a larger amount of subcutaneous tissue overlying the gluteal muscle, the administering healthcare provider may utilize the supplied 2-inch needle with needle protection device to help ensure that the injectate reaches the intramuscular mass. For very lean patients, the 1 1/2-inch needle may be appropriate to prevent the needle contacting the periosteum. Either needle may be used for patients with average body habitus. Healthcare providers should ensure that the VIVITROL injection is given correctly, and should consider alternate treatment for those patients whose body habitus precludes an intramuscular gluteal injection with one of the provided needles.

VIVITROL must not be administered intravenously or subcutaneously.

If a patient misses a dose, he/she should be instructed to receive the next dose as soon as possible. Pretreatment with oral naltrexone is not required before using VIVITROL.

2.1 Reinitiation of Treatment in Patients Previously Discontinued

There are no data to specifically address reinitiation of treatment. Patients reinitiating treatment with VIVITROL should be opioid-free at the time of dose administration [see Indications and Usage (1), Contraindications (4), and Warnings and Precautions (5.3)].

2.2 Switching From Oral Naltrexone

There are no systematically collected data that specifically address the switch from oral naltrexone to VIVITROL.

2.3 Switching from Buprenorphine, Buprenorphine/Naloxone, or Methadone

There are no systematically collected data that specifically address the switch from buprenorphine or methadone to VIVITROL; however, review of postmarketing case reports have indicated that some patients may experience severe manifestations of precipitated withdrawal when being switched from opioid agonist therapy to opioid antagonist therapy [see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)]. Patients transitioning from buprenorphine or methadone may be vulnerable to precipitation of withdrawal symptoms for as long as 2 weeks. Healthcare providers should be prepared to manage withdrawal symptomatically with non-opioid medications.

*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.*
2.4 Directions for Use

To ensure proper dosing, it is important that you follow the preparation and administration instructions outlined in this document.

VIVITROL must be suspended only in the diluent supplied in the carton and must be administered only with one of the administration needles supplied in the carton. The microspheres, diluent, preparation needle, and an administration needle with needle protection device are required for preparation and administration. Two thin-walled 1 1/2-inch needles with needle protection device and two 2-inch thin-walled needles with needle protection device have been provided to accommodate varying patient body habitus. For patients with a larger amount of subcutaneous tissue overlying the gluteal muscle, the administering healthcare provider may utilize the supplied 2-inch needle with needle protection device to help ensure that the injectate reaches the intramuscular mass. For very lean patients, the 1 1/2-inch needle may be appropriate to prevent the needle contacting the periosteum. Either needle may be used for patients with average body habitus. A spare administration needle of each size is provided in case of clogging [see How Supplied/Storage and Handling (16)]. Do not substitute any other components for the components of the carton.

Prior to preparation, allow drug to reach room temperature (approximately 45 minutes).

Parenteral products should be visually inspected for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration whenever solution and container permit. A properly mixed suspension will be milky white, will not contain clumps, and will move freely down the wall of the vial [see Directions for Use, illustration below].

Product to be prepared and administered by a healthcare provider.

Keep out of reach of children.

Prepare and administer the VIVITROL suspension using aseptic technique.

WARNING: To reduce the risk of a needlestick:

• Do not intentionally disengage the needle protection device.
• Discard bent or damaged needle into a sharps container and use the spare needle provided. Do not attempt to straighten the needle or engage needle protection device if the needle is bent or damaged.
• Do not mishandle the needle protection device in a way that could lead to protrusion of the needle.
• Do not use free hand to press sheath over needle.

THE CARTON SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO TEMPERATURES EXCEEDING 25°C (77°F).

The entire carton should be stored in the refrigerator (2-8°C, 36-46°F). Unrefrigerated, VIVITROL microspheres can be stored at temperatures not exceeding 25°C (77°F) for no more than 7 days prior to administration. Do not expose unrefrigerated product to temperatures above 25°C (77°F). VIVITROL should not be frozen.

Parenteral products should be visually inspected for particulate matter and disoloration prior to administration.

Inject the 3.4 mL of diluent into the VIVITROL microsphere vial. (see Figure C)

Mix the powder and diluent by vigorously shaking the vial for approximately 1 minute. (see Figure D)

Ensure that the dose is thoroughly suspended prior to proceeding to Step E.

A PROPERLY MIXED SUSPENSION WILL BE MILKY WHITE, WILL NOT CONTAIN CLUMPS, AND WILL MOVE FREELY DOWN THE WALLS OF THE VIAL.
1. Immediately after suspension, withdraw 4.2 mL of the suspension into the syringe using the same preparation needle. (see Figure E)

2. Select the appropriate needle for an intramuscular injection based on patient's body habitus:
   a. 1 1/2-inch TERUMO® Needle
   b. 2-inch TERUMO® Needle

1. Remove the preparation needle and replace with appropriately selected administration needle for immediate use.

2. Peel the blister pouch of the selected administration needle open halfway. Grip the base of the needle, not the safety sheath. Attach the luer connection to the syringe with an easy clockwise twisting motion. (see Figure F)

3. Seat the needle firmly on the needle protection device with a push and clockwise twist.

1. Move the safety sheath away from the needle and toward the syringe barrel. Pull the sheath away from the needle – do not twist the sheath because it could result in loosening the needle.

2. Prior to injecting, tap the syringe to release any air bubbles, then push gently on the plunger until 4 mL of the suspension remains in the syringe. (see Figure G)

THE SUSPENSION IS NOW READY FOR IMMEDIATE ADMINISTRATION.

1. Using a circular motion, clean the injection site with the alcohol swab. Let the site dry before injecting. Do not touch the site again before giving injections.

2. Administer the suspension by deep intramuscular (IM) injection into a gluteal muscle, alternating buttocks per monthly injection. Remember to aspirate for blood before injection. (see Figure H)

3. If blood aspirates or the needle clogs, do not inject. Change to the spare needle provided in the carton and administer into an adjacent site in the same gluteal region, again aspirating for blood before injection.

4. Inject the suspension in a smooth and continuous motion. VIVITROL must NOT be given intravenously or subcutaneously.

1. After the injection is administered, cover the needle by pressing the needle protection device against a flat surface using a one-handed technique to activate the safety mechanism away from self and others. (see Figure I)

Visually confirm needle is fully engaged into the needle protection device. (see Figure J)

DISPOSE OF USED AND UNUSED ITEMS IN PROPER WASTE CONTAINERS.
3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS
VIVITROL is an injectable suspension for single use. VIVITROL contains 380 mg of naltrexone in a microsphere formulation per vial (337 mg of naltrexone per gram of microspheres) and 4 mL diluent.

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS
VIVITROL is contraindicated in:
• Patients receiving opioid analgesics [see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)].
• Patients with current physiologic opioid dependence [see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)].
• Patients in acute opioid withdrawal [see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)].
• Any individual who has failed the naloxone challenge test or has a positive urine screen for opioids [see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)].
• Patients who have previously exhibited hypersensitivity to naltrexone, PLG, carboxymethycellulose, or any other components of the diluent [see Warnings and Precautions (5.8)].

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS
5.1 Vulnerability to Opioid Overdose
After opioid detoxification, patients are likely to have reduced tolerance to opioids. VIVITROL blocks the effects of exogenous opioids for approximately 28 days after administration. However, as the blockade wanes and eventually dissipates completely, patients who have been treated with VIVITROL may respond to lower doses of opioids than previously used, just as they would have shortly after completing detoxification. This could result in potentially life-threatening opioid intoxication (respiratory compromise or arrest, circulatory collapse, etc.) if the patient uses previously tolerated doses of opioids. Cases of opioid overdose with fatal outcomes have been reported in patients who used opioids at the end of a dosing interval, after missing a scheduled dose, or after discontinuing treatment.

Patients should be alerted that they may be more sensitive to opioids, even at lower doses, after VIVITROL treatment is discontinued, especially at the end of a dosing interval (i.e., near the end of the month that VIVITROL was administered), or after a dose of VIVITROL is missed. It is important that patients inform family members and the people closest to the patient of this increased sensitivity to opioids and the risk of overdose [see Patient Counseling Information (17)].

There is also the possibility that a patient who is treated with VIVITROL could overcome the opioid blockade effect of VIVITROL. Although VIVITROL is a potent antagonist with a prolonged pharmacological effect, the blockade produced by VIVITROL is surmountable. The plasma concentration of exogenous opioids attained immediately following their acute administration may be sufficient to overcome the competitive receptor blockade. This poses a potential risk to individuals who attempt, on their own, to overcome the blockade by administering large amounts of exogenous opioids. Any attempt by a patient to overcome the antagonism by taking opioids is especially dangerous and may lead to life-threatening opioid intoxication or fatal overdose. Patients should be told of the serious consequences of trying to overcome the opioid blockade [see Patient Counseling Information (17)].

5.2 Injection Site Reactions
VIVITROL injections may be followed by pain, tenderness, induration, swelling, erythema, bruising, or pruritus; however, in some cases injection site reactions may be very severe. In the clinical trials, one patient developed an area of induration that continued to enlarge after 4 weeks, with subsequent development of necrotic tissue that required surgical excision. In the postmarketing period, additional cases of injection site reaction with features including induration, cellulitis, hematomata, abscess, sterile abscess, and necrosis, have been reported. Some cases required surgical intervention, including debridement of necrotic tissue. Some cases resulted in significant scarring. The reported cases occurred primarily in female patients.

VIVITROL is administered as an intramuscular gluteal injection, and inadvertent subcutaneous injection of VIVITROL may increase the likelihood of severe injection site reactions. The needles provided in the carton are customized needles. VIVITROL must not be injected using any other needle. The needle lengths (either 1 1/2 inches or 2 inches) may not be adequate in every patient because of body habitus. Body habitus should be assessed prior to each injection for each patient to assure that the proper needle is selected and that the needle length is adequate for intramuscular administration. For patients with a larger amount of subcutaneous tissue overlying the gluteal muscle, the administering healthcare provider may utilize the supplied 2-inch needle with needle protection device to help ensure that the injectate reaches the intramuscular mass. For very lean patients, the 1 1/2-inch needle may be appropriate to prevent the needle contacting the periosteum. Either needle may be used for patients with average body habitus. Healthcare providers should ensure that the VIVITROL injection is given correctly, and should consider alternate treatment for those patients whose body habitus precludes an intramuscular gluteal injection with one of the provided needles.

Patients should be informed that any concerning injection site reactions should be brought to the attention of the healthcare provider [see Patient Counseling Information (17)]. Patients exhibiting signs of abscess, cellulitis, necrosis, or extensive swelling should be evaluated by a physician to determine if referral to a surgeon is warranted.

5.3 Precipitation of Opioid Withdrawal
The symptoms of spontaneous opioid withdrawal (which are associated with the discontinuation of opioid in a dependent individual) are uncomfortable, but they are not generally believed to be severe or necessitate hospitalization. However, when withdrawal is precipitated abruptly by the administration of an opioid antagonist to an opioid-dependent patient, the resulting withdrawal syndrome can be severe enough to require hospitalization. Review of postmarketing cases of precipitated opioid withdrawal in association with naltrexone treatment has identified cases with symptoms of withdrawal severe enough to require hospital admission, and in some cases, management in the intensive care unit.

To prevent occurrence of precipitated withdrawal in patients dependent on opioids, or exacerbation of a pre-existing subclinical withdrawal syndrome, opioid-dependent patients, including those being treated for alcohol dependence, should be opioid-free (including tramadol) before starting VIVITROL treatment. An opioid-free interval of a minimum of 7–10 days is recommended for patients previously dependent on short-acting opioids. Patients transitioning from buprenorphine or methadone may be vulnerable to precipitation of withdrawal symptoms for as long as two weeks.

If a more rapid transition from agonist to antagonist therapy is deemed necessary and appropriate by the healthcare provider, monitor the patient closely in an appropriate medical setting where precipitated withdrawal can be managed.

In every case, healthcare providers should always be prepared to manage withdrawal symptomatically with non-opioid medications because there is no completely reliable method for determining whether a patient has had an adequate opioid-free period. A naloxone challenge test may be helpful; however, a few case reports have indicated that patients may experience precipitated withdrawal despite having a negative urine toxicology screen or tolerating a naloxone challenge test (usually in the setting of transitioning from buprenorphine treatment). Patients should be made aware of the risks associated with precipitated withdrawal and encouraged to give an accurate account of last opioid use. Patients treated for alcohol dependence with VIVITROL should also be assessed for underlying opioid dependence and for any recent use of opioids prior to initiation of treatment with VIVITROL. Precipitated opioid withdrawal has been observed in alcohol-dependent patients in circumstances where the prescriber had been unaware of the additional use of opioids or co-dependence on opioids.

5.4 Hepatotoxicity
Cases of hepatitis and clinically significant liver dysfunction were observed in association with VIVITROL exposure during the clinical development program and in the postmarketing period. Transient, asymptomatic hepatic transaminase elevations were also observed in the clinical trials and postmarketing period. Although patients with clinically significant liver disease were not systematically studied, clinical trials did include patients with asymptomatic viral hepatitis infections. When patients presented with elevated transaminases, there were often other potential causative or contributory etiologies identified, including pre-existing alcoholic liver disease, hepatitis B and/or C infection, and concomitant usage of other potentially hepatotoxic drugs. Although clinically significant liver dysfunction is not typically recognized as a manifestation of opioid withdrawal, opioid withdrawal that is precipitated abruptly may lead to systemic sequelae including acute liver injury.

Patients should be warned of the risk of hepatic injury and advised to seek medical attention if they experience symptoms of acute hepatitis. Use of VIVITROL should be discontinued in the event of symptoms and/or signs of acute hepatitis.
5.5 Depression and Suicidality
Alcohol- and opioid-dependent patients, including those taking VIVITROL, should be monitored for the development of depression or suicidal thinking. Families and caregivers of patients being treated with VIVITROL should be alerted to the need to monitor patients for the emergence of symptoms of depression or suicidality, and to report such symptoms to the patient’s healthcare provider.

Opioid Dependence
In controlled clinical trials of VIVITROL administered to adults with alcohol dependence, adverse events of a suicidal nature (suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, completed suicides) were infrequent overall, but were more common in patients treated with VIVITROL than in patients treated with placebo (1% vs 0). In some cases, the suicidal thoughts or behavior occurred after study discontinuation, but were in the context of an episode of depression that began while the patient was on study drug. Two completed suicides occurred, both involving patients treated with VIVITROL.

Depression-related events associated with premature discontinuation of study drug were also more common in patients treated with VIVITROL (~1%) than in placebo-treated patients (0).

In the 24-week, placebo-controlled pivotal trial in 624 alcohol-dependent patients, adverse events involving depressed mood were reported by 10% of patients treated with VIVITROL 380 mg, as compared to 5% of patients treated with placebo injections.

5.6 When Reversal of VIVITROL Blockade Is Required for Pain Management
In an emergency situation in patients receiving VIVITROL, suggestions for pain management include regional analgesia or use of non-opioid analgesics. If opioid therapy is required as part of anesthesia or analgesia, patients should be continuously monitored in an anesthesia care setting by persons not involved in the conduct of the surgical or diagnostic procedure. The opioid therapy must be provided by individuals specifically trained in the use of anesthetic drugs and the management of the respiratory effects of potent opioids, specifically the establishment and maintenance of a patent airway and assisted ventilation.

Irrespective of the drug chosen to reverse VIVITROL blockade, the patient should be monitored closely by appropriately trained personnel in a setting equipped and staffed for cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

5.7 Eosinophilic Pneumonia
In clinical trials with VIVITROL, there was one diagnosed case and one suspected case of eosinophilic pneumonia. Both cases required hospitalization, and resolved after treatment with antibiotics and corticosteroids. Similar cases have been reported in postmarketing use. Should a person receiving VIVITROL develop progressive dyspnea and hypoxemia, the diagnosis of eosinophilic pneumonia should be considered [see Adverse Reactions (6.2)]. Patients should be warned of the risk of eosinophilic pneumonia, and advised to seek medical attention should they develop symptoms of pneumonia. Clinicians should consider the possibility of eosinophilic pneumonia in patients who do not respond to antibiotics.

5.8 Hypersensitivity Reactions Including Anaphylaxis
Cases of urticaria, angioedema, and anaphylaxis have been observed with use of VIVITROL in the clinical trial setting and in postmarketing use. Patients should be warned of the risk of hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylaxis. In the event of a hypersensitivity reaction, patients should be advised to seek immediate medical attention in a healthcare setting prepared to treat anaphylaxis. The patient should not receive any further treatment with VIVITROL.

5.9 Intramuscular Injections
As with any intramuscular injection, VIVITROL should be administered with caution to patients with thrombocytopenia or any coagulation disorder (eg, hemophilia and severe hepatic failure).

5.10 Alcohol Withdrawal
Use of VIVITROL does not eliminate nor diminish alcohol withdrawal symptoms.

5.11 Interference with Laboratory Tests
VIVITROL may be cross-reactive with certain immunoassay methods for the detection of drugs of abuse (specifically opioids) in urine. For further information, reference to the specific immunoassay instructions is recommended.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS
Serious adverse reactions that may be associated with VIVITROL therapy in clinical use include: severe injection site reactions, eosinophilic pneumonia, serious allergic reactions, unintended precipitation of opioid withdrawal, accidental opioid overdose and depression and suicidality.

The adverse events most frequently in association with VIVITROL therapy for alcohol dependence (ie, those occurring in ≥5% and at least twice as frequently with VIVITROL than placebo) include nausea, vomiting, injection site reactions (including induration, pruritus, nodules and swelling), muscle cramps, dizziness or syncope, somnolence or sedation, anorexia, decreased appetite or other appetite disorders.

The adverse events most frequently in association with VIVITROL therapy in opioid-dependent patients (ie, those occurring in ≥2% and at least twice as frequently with VIVITROL than placebo) were hepatic enzyme abnormalities, injection site pain, nasopharyngitis, insomnia, and toothache.

6.1 Clinical Studies 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.

In all controlled and uncontrolled trials during the premarketing development of VIVITROL, more than 1,100 patients with alcohol and/or opioid dependence have been treated with VIVITROL. Approximately 700 patients have been treated for 6 months or more, and more than 400 for 1 year or longer.

Adverse Events Leading to Discontinuation of Treatment
Alcohol Dependence
In controlled trials of 6 months or less in alcohol-dependent patients, 9% of alcohol-dependent patients treated with VIVITROL discontinued treatment due to an adverse event, as compared to 7% of the alcohol-dependent patients treated with placebo. Adverse events in the VIVITROL 380-mg group that led to more dropouts than in the placebo-treated group were injection site reactions (3%), nausea (2%), pregnancy (1%), headache (1%), and suicide-related events (0.3%). In the placebo group, 1% of patients withdrew due to injection site reactions, and 0% of patients withdrew due to the other adverse events.

Opioid Dependence
In a controlled trial of 6 months, 2% of opioid-dependent patients treated with VIVITROL discontinued treatment due to an adverse event, as compared to 2% of the opioid-dependent patients treated with placebo.

Common Adverse Reactions
Alcohol Dependence
Table 1 lists all treatment-emergent clinical adverse reactions, regardless of causality, occurring in ≥5% of patients with alcohol dependence, for which the incidence was greater in the combined VIVITROL group than in the placebo group. A majority of patients treated with VIVITROL in clinical studies had adverse reactions with a maximum intensity of “mild” or “moderate”.

Reference ID: 3857120
Table 1: Treatment-emergent Adverse Reactions (Reactions in ≥5% of patients with alcohol dependence treated with VIVITROL and occurring more frequently in the combined VIVITROL group than in the placebo group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body System</th>
<th>Adverse Reaction / Preferred Term</th>
<th>Placebo N=214</th>
<th>Naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension N=440</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N=214 400 mg</td>
<td>N=214 500 mg</td>
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<td>N=210 1600 mg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>N  %  N %  N  %  N %  N  %  N %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal Disorders</td>
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<td>24  11  8  32</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vomiting NOS</td>
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<td>12   6   3   12</td>
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<td>Diarrhea</td>
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<td>21  10  5  12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abdominal pain</td>
<td>17   8   4   16</td>
<td>17   8   4   16</td>
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<td>9    4   6   24</td>
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<td>23   11  0   0</td>
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<td>Psychiatric Disorders</td>
<td>Insomnia, sleep disorder</td>
<td>25   12  2   8</td>
<td>25   12  2   8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>17   8   2   8</td>
<td>17   8   2   8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>9    4   0   0</td>
<td>9    4   0   0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Disorders &amp; Administration Site Conditions</td>
<td>Any ISR</td>
<td>106  50  22  88</td>
<td>106  50  22  88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Injection site tenderness</td>
<td>83   39  18  72</td>
<td>83   39  18  72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Injection site induration</td>
<td>18   8   7   26</td>
<td>18   8   7   26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Injection site pain</td>
<td>16   7   0   0</td>
<td>16   7   0   0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other ISR (primarily nodules, swelling)</td>
<td>8   4   8   32</td>
<td>8   4   8   32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Injection site pruritus</td>
<td>0    0   0   0</td>
<td>0    0   0   0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Injection site ecchymosis</td>
<td>11   5   0   0</td>
<td>11   5   0   0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anesthetic conditions</td>
<td>26   12  3   12</td>
<td>26   12  3   12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musculoskeletal &amp; Connective Tissue Disorders</td>
<td>Arthralgia, arthritis, joint stiffness</td>
<td>11   5   1   4</td>
<td>11   5   1   4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Back pain, back stiffness</td>
<td>10   5   1   4</td>
<td>10   5   1   4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muscle cramps</td>
<td>3    1   0   0</td>
<td>3    1   0   0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin &amp; Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders</td>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>8    4   3   12</td>
<td>8    4   3   12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous System Disorders</td>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>39   18  9   36</td>
<td>39   18  9   36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dizziness, syncope</td>
<td>9    4   4   16</td>
<td>9    4   4   16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Somnolence, sedation</td>
<td>2    1   3   12</td>
<td>2    1   3   12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metabolism &amp; Nutrition Disorders</td>
<td>Anorexia, appetite decreased NOS</td>
<td>6    3   5   20</td>
<td>6    3   5   20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>appetite disorder NOS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) Includes the preferred terms: diarrhea NOS, frequent bowel movements; gastrointestinal upset; loose stools
b) Includes the preferred terms: abdominal pain NOS, abdominal pain upper; stomach discomfort; abdominal pain lower
c) Includes the preferred terms: nausea NOS; pharyngitis; pharyngitis streptococcal; pharyngitis NOS
d) Includes the preferred terms: anxiety NEC; anxiety aggravated; agitation; obsessive compulsive disorder; panic attack; nervousness; post traumatic stress
e) Includes the preferred terms: malaise; fatigue; (these two comprise the majority of cases); lethargy; sluggishness
f) Includes the preferred terms: muscle cramps; spasms; tightness; twitching; stiffness; rigidity
g) Includes the preferred terms: rash NOS; rash papular; heat rash
h) Includes the preferred terms: headache NOS; sinus headache; migraine; frequent headaches

Reference ID: 3857120

Opioid Dependence

In the open-label, long-term safety study conducted in the US, the commonly reported adverse reactions among the opioid-dependent patients in the study were similar to those commonly observed events in the alcohol-dependent populations in VIVITROL clinical trials as displayed in Table 1, above. For example, injection site reactions of all types, nausea and diarrhea occurred in more than 5% of patients on VIVITROL in the open-label study. In contrast, 48% percent, of the opioid-dependent patients had at least one adverse event in the “Infections and Infestations” Body System. Adverse Reactions/Preferred Terms of nasopharyngitis, upper respiratory tract infection, urinary tract infection, and sinusitis were most commonly reported.

In the placebo-controlled study in opioid-dependent patients conducted in Russia, the overall frequency of adverse events was lower than in the U.S. population described above. Table 2 lists treatment-emergent clinical adverse events, regardless of causality, occurring in ≥2% of patients with opioid dependence, for which the incidence was greater in the VIVITROL group than in the placebo group. All adverse events were assessed as having a maximum intensity of “mild” or “moderate.”

Table 2: Treatment-emergent Clinical Adverse Events (Events in ≥2% of patients with opioid dependence treated with VIVITROL and occurring more frequently in the VIVITROL group than in the placebo group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body System</th>
<th>Adverse Event / Preferred Term</th>
<th>Placebo N=124</th>
<th>VIVITROL 380 mg N=126</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>n  %   n  %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigations</td>
<td></td>
<td>7    6</td>
<td>16   13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5    2</td>
<td>13   10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4    3</td>
<td>9    7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infections and Infestations</td>
<td></td>
<td>5    2</td>
<td>9    7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric Disorders</td>
<td></td>
<td>1    1</td>
<td>8    6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular Disorders</td>
<td></td>
<td>4    3</td>
<td>6    5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions</td>
<td>Injection site pain</td>
<td>1    1</td>
<td>6    5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2    2</td>
<td>5    4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous System Disorders</td>
<td></td>
<td>5    2</td>
<td>4    3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metabolism &amp; Nutrition Disorders</td>
<td>Anorexia, appetite decreased NOS, appetite disorder NOS</td>
<td>6    3</td>
<td>5    2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference ID: 3857120
VIVITROL experienced a mean maximal decrease in platelet count of 17.8 x 10^3/µL, compared to 2.6 x 10^3/µL in placebo patients. After 24 weeks of treatment, opioid-dependent patients treated with VIVITROL experienced a mean maximal decrease in platelet count of 62.8 x 10^3/µL, compared to 39.9 x 10^3/µL in placebo patients. In randomized controlled trials, VIVITROL was not associated with an increase in bleeding-related adverse events.

Hepatic Enzyme Elevations: In short-term, alcohol-dependent patients, the incidence of AST elevations associated with VIVITROL treatment was similar to that observed with oral naltrexone treatment (1.5% each) and slightly higher than observed with placebo treatment (0.9%).

In the 6-month controlled trial conducted in opioid-dependent subjects, 89% had a baseline diagnosis of hepatitis C infection, and 41% had a baseline diagnosis of HIV infection. There were frequently observed elevated liver enzyme values (ALT, AST, and GGT); these were more commonly reported as adverse events in the VIVITROL 380-mg group than in the placebo group. Patients could not enroll in this trial if they had a baseline ALT or AST value that was more than three times the upper limit of normal. More patients treated with VIVITROL in this study experienced treatment-emergent elevations in transaminases to more than three times the upper limit of normal than patients treated with placebo. Shifts to more than three times the upper limit of normal occurred in 20% of patients treated with VIVITROL as compared with 13% of placebo patients. Shifts in values of AST to more than three times the upper limit were also more common in the VIVITROL (14%) arm compared with the placebo (11%) arm. Opioid-dependent patients treated with VIVITROL experienced a mean maximal increase from baseline ALT levels of 61 IU/L compared with 48 IU/L in placebo patients. Similarly for AST, opioid-dependent patients treated with VIVITROL experienced a mean maximal increase from baseline AST levels of 40 IU/L compared with 31 IU/L in placebo patients.

Creatinine Phosphokinase: In short-term controlled trials in alcohol-dependent patients, more patients treated with VIVITROL 380 mg (11%) and oral naltrexone (17%) shifted from normal creatinine phosphokinase (CPK) levels before treatment to abnormal CPK levels at the end of the trials, compared to placebo patients (8%). In open-label trials, 16% of patients dosed for more than 6 months had increases in CPK. For both the oral naltrexone and VIVITROL 380-mg groups, CPK abnormalities were most frequently in the range of 1–2 x ULN. However, there were reports of CPK abnormalities as high as 6 x ULN for the oral naltrexone group, and 35 x ULN for the VIVITROL 380-mg group. Overall, there were no differences between the placebo and naltrexone (oral or injectable) groups with respect to the proportions of patients with a CPK value at least three times the upper limit of normal. No factors other than naltrexone exposure were associated with the CPK elevations.

More opioid-dependent patients treated with VIVITROL 380 mg (39%) shifted from normal creatinine phosphokinase (CPK) levels before treatment to abnormal CPK levels during the study as compared to patients treated with placebo (32%). There were reports of CPK abnormalities as high as 41.8 x ULN for the placebo group, and 22 x ULN for the VIVITROL 380-mg group.

Other Events Observed During the VIVITROL Clinical Studies

The following is a list of treatment-emergent adverse reactions reported by alcohol- and/or opioid-dependent subjects treated with VIVITROL in all clinical trials. The listing does not include those events already listed in the previous tables or elsewhere in labeling, those events for which a drug cause was remote, those events that were so general as to be uninformative, and those events reported only once that did not have a substantial probability of being acutely life-threatening.

Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders – lymphadenopathy (including cervical adenitis), white blood cell count increased
Cardiac Disorders – angina pectoris, angina unstable, atrial fibrillation, cardiac failure congestive, coronary artery atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, palpitations
Eye Disorders – conjunctivitis, vision blurred
Gastrointestinal Disorders – abdominal discomfort, colitis, constipation, flatulence, gastroesophageal reflux disease, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, hemorrhoids, pancreatitis acute, paralytic ileus, perirectal abscess
Gastrointestinal Disorders – abdominal discomfort, colitis, constipation, flatulence, gastroesophageal reflux disease, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, hemorrhoids, pancreatitis acute, paralytic ileus, perirectal abscess
General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions – chest pain, chest tightness, chills, face edema, irritability, lethargy, pyrexia, rigors
Hepatobiliary Disorders – cholecystitis acute, cholelithiasis
Immune System Disorders – seasonal allergy, hypersensitivity reaction (including angioedema edema and urticaria)
Infections and Infestations – bronchitis, gastroenteritis, laryngitis, pneumonia, sinusitis, tooth abscess, upper respiratory tract infection, urinary tract infection, advanced HIV disease in HIV-infected patients
Investigations – weight decreased, weight increased
Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders – appetite increased, dehydration, heat exhaustion, hypercholesterolemia
Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders – joint stiffness, muscle spasms, myalgia, pain in limb
Nervous System Disorders – cerebral arterial aneurysm, convulsions, disturbance in attention, dysgeusia, mental impairment, migraine, ischemic stroke, paresthesia
Pregnancy, Puerperium, and Perinatal Conditions – abortion missed
Psychiatric Disorders – abnormal dreams, agitation, alcohol withdrawal syndrome, euphoric mood, delirium, libido decreased
Respiratory, Thoracic, and Mediallital Disorders – chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dyspnea, pharyngolaryngeal pain, sinus congestion
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders – night sweats, pruritus, sweating increased
Vascular Disorders – deep venous thrombosis, hot flushes, pulmonary embolism

6.2 Postmarketing Reports

Hypersensitivity Reactions including Anaphylaxis
Hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis have been reported during postmarketing surveillance.

Reports From Other Intramuscular Drug Products Containing Poly lactide-co-glycolide (PLG) Microspheres

Retinal Artery Occlusion
Retinal artery occlusion after injection with another drug product containing poly lactide-co-glycolide (PLG) microspheres has been reported very rarely during postmarketing surveillance. This event has been reported in the presence of abnormal arteriogenous anastomosis. No cases of retinal artery occlusion have been reported during VIVITROL clinical trials or postmarketing surveillance. VIVITROL should be administered by intramuscular (IM) injection into the gluteal muscle, and care must be taken to avoid inadvertent injection into a blood vessel [see Dosage and Administration (2)].

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

Patients taking VIVITROL may not benefit from opioid-containing medicines. Naltrexone antagonizes the effects of opioid-containing medicines, such as cough and cold remedies, anti-diarrheal preparations and opioid analgesics.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of either naltrexone or VIVITROL in pregnant women. VIVITROL should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Pregnancy Category C: Reproduction and developmental studies have not been conducted for VIVITROL. Studies with naltrexone administered via the oral route have been conducted in pregnant rats and rabbits.

Teratogenic Effects: Naltrexone has been shown to increase the incidence of early fetal loss when given to rats at doses ≥30 mg/kg/day (11 times the human exposure based on an AUC (0-28d) comparison) and to rabbits at oral doses ≥260 mg/kg/day (2 times the human exposure based on an AUC (0-28d) comparison). There was no evidence of teratogenicity when naltrexone was administered orally to rats and rabbits during the period of major organogenesis at doses up to 200 mg/kg/day (175- and 14-times the human exposure based on an AUC (0-28d) comparison, respectively).

8.2 Labor and Delivery

The potential effect of VIVITROL on duration of labor and delivery in humans is unknown.

8.3 Nursing Mothers

Transfer of naltrexone and 6β-naltrexol into human milk has been reported with oral naltrexone. Because of the potential for tumorigenicity shown for naltrexone in animal studies, and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from VIVITROL, 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.
VIVITROL is provided as a carton containing a vial each of VIVITROL microspheres and diluent, one 5-mL syringe, one protection device. VIVITROL is supplied as a microsphere formulation of naltrexone designed to be administered by intramuscular (IM) gluteal injection every 4 weeks or once a month. After IM injection, the naltrexone plasma concentration time profile is characterized by a transient initial peak, which occurs approximately 2 hours after injection, followed by a second peak observed approximately 2-3 days later. Beginning approximately 14 days after dosing, concentrations slowly decline, with measurable levels for greater than 1 month.

Maximum plasma concentration (Cmax) and area under the curve (AUC) for naltrexone and 6β-naltrexol are not surmountable, but overcoming full naltrexone blockade by administration of opioids may result in non-opioid receptor-mediated symptoms such as histamine release. VIVITROL is not an aversive therapy and does not cause a disulfiram-like reaction either as a result of opiate use or ethanol ingestion.

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Absorption
VIVITROL is an extended-release, microsphere formulation of naltrexone designed to be administered by intramuscular (IM) gluteal injection every 4 weeks or once a month. After IM injection, the naltrexone plasma concentration time profile is characterized by a transient initial peak, which occurs approximately 2 hours after injection, followed by a second peak observed approximately 2-3 days later. Beginning approximately 14 days after dosing, concentrations slowly decline, with measurable levels for greater than 1 month.

Maximum plasma concentration (Cmax) and area under the curve (AUC) for naltrexone and 6β-naltrexol are not surmountable, but overcoming full naltrexone blockade by administration of opioids may result in non-opioid receptor-mediated symptoms such as histamine release. VIVITROL is not an aversive therapy and does not cause a disulfiram-like reaction either as a result of opiate use or ethanol ingestion.

Distribution
In vitro data demonstrate that naltrexone plasma protein binding is low (21%).

Metabolism
Naltrexone is extensively metabolized in humans. Production of the primary metabolite, 6β-naltrexol, is mediated by dihydriodil dehydrogenase, a cytosolic family of enzymes. The cytochrome P450 system is not involved in naltrexone metabolism. Two other minor metabolites are 2-hydroxy-3-methoxy-6β-naltrexol and 2-hydroxy-5-methoxy-naltrexone. Naltrexone and its metabolites are conjugated to form glucuronide products. Significantly less 6β-naltrexol is generated following IM administration of VIVITROL compared to administration of oral naltrexone due to a reduction in first-pass hepatic metabolism.

Elimination
Elimination of naltrexone and its metabolites occurs primarily via urine, with minimal excretion of unchanged naltrexone. The elimination half life of naltrexone following VIVITROL administration is 5-10 days and is dependent on the erosion of the polymer. The elimination half life of 6β-naltrexol following VIVITROL administration is 5-10 days.

Special Populations
Pediatric: Pharmacokinetics of VIVITROL have not been evaluated in a pediatric population.

Geriatric: Pharmacokinetics of VIVITROL have not been evaluated in the geriatric population [see Use in Specific Populations (8.5)].

Race: Effect of race on the pharmacokinetics of VIVITROL has not been studied.

Gender: In a study in healthy subjects (n=18 females and 18 males), gender did not influence the pharmacokinetics of VIVITROL.

Renal Insufficiency: A population pharmacokinetic analysis indicated mild renal insufficiency (creatinine clearance of 50-80 mL/min) had little or no influence on VIVITROL pharmacokinetics and that no dosage adjustment is necessary. VIVITROL pharmacokinetics have not been evaluated in subjects with moderate and severe renal insufficiency [see Use in Specific Populations (8.6)].

Hepatic Insufficiency: The pharmacokinetics of VIVITROL are not altered in subjects with mild to moderate hepatic impairment (Groups A and B of the Child-Pugh classification). VIVITROL pharmacokinetics were not evaluated in subjects with severe hepatic impairment [see Use in Specific Populations (8.7)].
Drug Interactions
In vitro studies: Because naltrexone is not a substrate for CYP drug metabolizing enzymes, inducers or inhibitors of these enzymes are unlikely to change the clearance of VIVITROL. An in vitro CYP inhibition study demonstrated that naltrexone is not an inhibitor of major CYP enzymes (CYP 1A2, 2A6, 2B6, 2C8, 2C9, 2C19, 2D6, 2E1, 3A4). An in vitro CYP induction study demonstrated that naltrexone is not an inducer of CYP3A4 and CYP1A2.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility
Carcinogenesis: Carcinogenicity studies have not been conducted with VIVITROL.

Carcinogenicity studies of oral naltrexone hydrochloride (administered via the diet) have been conducted in rats and mice. In a two-year carcinogenicity study in rats, there were small increases in the numbers of testicular mesotheliomas in males and tumors of vascular origin in males and females. The incidence of testicular mesothelioma in males given naltrexone at a dietary dose of 100 mg/kg/day (3 times the human exposure based on an AUC(0-28d) comparison) was 6%, compared with a maximum historical incidence of 4%. The incidence of vascular tumors in males and females given dietary doses of 100 mg/kg/day was 4% but only the incidence in females was increased compared with a maximum historical control incidence of 2% (3 and 32 times the human exposure based on an AUC(0-28d) comparison in males and females, respectively). There was no evidence of carcinogenicity in a 2-year dietary study with naltrexone in male and female mice (12 and 3 times the human exposure based on an AUC(0-28d) comparison, respectively). The clinical significance of these findings is not known.

Mutagenesis: Naltrexone was negative in the following in vitro genotoxicity studies: bacterial reverse mutation assay (Ames test), the heritable translocation assay, CHO cell sister chromatid exchange assay, and the mouse lymphoma gene mutation assay. Naltrexone was also negative in an in vivo mouse micronucleus assay. In contrast, naltrexone tested positive in the following assays: Drosophila recessive lethal frequency assay, non-specific DNA damage in repair tests with E. coli and WI-38 cells, and urinalysis for methylated histidine residues.

Impairment of Fertility: Naltrexone given via oral gavage caused a significant increase in pseudopregnancy and a decrease in pregnancy rates in rats at 100 mg/kg/day (75 times the human exposure based on an AUC(0-28d) comparison). There was no effect on male fertility at this dose level (6 times the human exposure based on an AUC(0-28d) comparison). The relevance of these observations to human fertility is not known.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

Alcohol Dependence
The efficacy of VIVITROL in the treatment of alcohol dependence was evaluated in a 24-week, placebo-controlled, multi-center, double-blind, randomized trial of alcohol-dependent (DSM-IV) outpatients. Subjects were treated with an injection every 4 weeks of VIVITROL 190 mg, VIVITROL 380 mg or placebo. Oral naltrexone was not administered prior to the initial or subsequent injections of study medication. Psychosocial support was provided on a biweekly basis to all subjects in addition to medication.

Subjects treated with VIVITROL 380 mg demonstrated a greater reduction in days of heavy drinking than those treated with placebo. Heavy drinking was defined as self-report of 5 or more standard drinks consumed on a given day for male patients and 4 or more drinks for female patients. The subset of patients (n=53, 8% of the total study population) who abstained completely from drinking during the week prior to the first dose of medication, compared with placebo-treated patients, those treated with VIVITROL 380 mg had greater reductions in the number of drinking days and the number of heavy drinking days. In this subset, patients treated with VIVITROL were also more likely than placebo-treated patients to maintain complete abstinence throughout treatment. The same treatment effects were not evident among the subset of patients (n=571, 92% of the total study population) who were actively drinking at the time of treatment initiation.
• Advise patients that if they previously used opioids, they may be more sensitive to lower doses of opioids and at risk of accidental overdose should they use opioids when their next dose is due, if they miss a dose, or after VIVITROL treatment is discontinued. It is important that patients inform family members and the people closest to the patient of this increased sensitivity to opioids and the risk of overdose.

• Advise patients that because VIVITROL can block the effects of opioids, patients will not perceive any effect if they attempt to self-administer heroin or any other opioid drug in small doses while on VIVITROL. Further, emphasize that administration of large doses of heroin or any other opioid to try to bypass the blockade and get high while on VIVITROL may lead to serious injury, coma, or death.

• Patients on VIVITROL may not experience the expected effects from opioid-containing analgesic, antidiarrheal, or antitussive medications.

• Advise patients that a reaction at the site of VIVITROL injection may occur. Reactions include pain, tenderness, induration, swelling, erythema, bruising, or pruritus. Serious injection site reactions including necrosis may occur. Some of these injection site reactions have required surgery. Patients should receive their injection from a healthcare provider qualified to administer the injection. Patients should be advised to seek medical attention for worsening skin reactions.

• Advise patients that they should be off all opioids, including opioid-containing medicines, for a minimum of 7 – 10 days before starting VIVITROL in order to avoid precipitation of opioid withdrawal. Patients transitioning from buprenorphine or methadone may be vulnerable to precipitation of withdrawal symptoms for as long as two weeks. Ensure that patients understand that withdrawal precipitated by administration of an opioid antagonist may be severe enough to require hospitalization if they have not been opioid-free for an adequate period of time, and is different from the experience of spontaneous withdrawal that occurs with discontinuation of opioid in a dependent individual. Advise patients that they should not take VIVITROL if they have any symptoms of opioid withdrawal. Advise all patients, including those with alcohol dependence, that it is imperative to notify healthcare providers of any recent use of opioids or any history of opioid dependence before starting VIVITROL to avoid precipitation of opioid withdrawal.

• Advise patients that VIVITROL may cause liver injury. Patients should immediately notify their physician if they develop symptoms and/or signs of liver disease.

• Advise patients that they may experience depression while taking VIVITROL. It is important that patients inform family members and the people closest to the patient that they are taking VIVITROL and that they should call a doctor right away should they become depressed or experience symptoms of depression.

• Advise patients to carry documentation to alert medical personnel to the fact that they are taking VIVITROL (naltrexone injection suspension). Patients should be advised to seek medical attention for worsening skin reactions.

• Advise patients that VIVITROL may cause an allergic pneumonia. Patients should immediately notify their physician if they develop dyspnea, coughing, or wheezing.

• Advise patients that they may experience nausea following the initial injection of VIVITROL. These episodes of nausea tend to be mild and subside within a few days post-injection. Patients are less likely to experience nausea in subsequent injections. Patients should be advised that they may also experience tiredness, headache, vomiting, decreased appetite, painful joints and muscle cramps.

• Advise patients that because VIVITROL is an intramuscular injection and not an implanted device, once VIVITROL is injected, it is not possible to remove it from the body.

• Advise patients that VIVITROL has been shown to treat alcohol and opioid dependence only when used as part of a treatment program that includes counseling and support.

• Advise patients that dizziness may occur with VIVITROL treatment, and they should avoid driving or operating heavy machinery until they have determined how VIVITROL affects them.

17.2 Frequently Asked Questions About Administering VIVITROL:

1. Can I prepare the suspension prior to my patient’s arrival?

No. You may remove the carton from the refrigerator prior to the patient’s arrival, but once the diluent is added to the VIVITROL microspheres, the dose should be mixed and the suspension administered immediately. It is very important to use proper aseptic technique when preparing the suspension [see Dosage and Administration (2.4)].

2. How much time do I have between preparing and administering the dose?

It is recommended that the suspension be administered immediately once the product has been suspended and transferred into the syringe. If a few minutes’ delay occurs after suspension but before transfer into the syringe [see Dosage and Administration (2.4); Figure 5], the vial can be inverted a few times to resuspend and then transferred into the syringe for immediate use [see Dosage and Administration (2.4)].

3. Can I use needles other than those provided in the carton?

No. The needles in the carton are specially designed for administration of VIVITROL. Do not make any substitutions for components of the carton [see Dosage and Administration (2.4)].

4. The suspension is milky white upon mixing with the diluent. Is this normal?

Yes. VIVITROL microspheres will form a milky suspension when mixed with the provided diluent [see Dosage and Administration (2.4)].

5. What if a needle clog occurs during administration of the product?

If a clog occurs during administration, the needle should be withdrawn from the patient, capped with the attached needle protection device, and replaced with the spare administration needle. Gently push on the plunger until a bead of the suspension appears at the tip of the needle. The remainder of the suspension should then be administered into an adjacent site in the same gluteal region [see Dosage and Administration (2.4)].

For additional information, visit www.vivitrol.com or call 1-800-848-4876
Manufactured and marketeted by: Alkermes, Inc.
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Waltham, MA 02451-1420

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