

# Esperanza Homeopathic NeuroPeptide

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# Esperanza Homeopathic NeuroPeptide

**Date of issue: March 2009**

## **About Esperanza Homeopathic NeuroPeptide**

Esperanza Homeopathic NeuroPeptide is the brand name of an unlicensed product that has been developed by Biotherapeutics Inc. Peptides are short linked chains of amino acids, the building blocks of proteins. This product is a peptide whose active ingredient is derived from a protein called alpha-cobratoxin, which is extracted from cobra venom.

The peptide is thought to regulate the immune system and to allow messages to be conducted across nerve/muscle junctions. The treatment does not claim to be a cure for multiple sclerosis, but the suppliers do claim that most people regain some function and experience fewer and less severe relapses if the treatment is taken regularly.

The peptide is taken as a sublingual (under the tongue) spray at the same time each day. Three puffs are administered initially, followed by a further three puffs five minutes later. To allow full absorption of the product, nothing should be eaten or drunk for a further 15 minutes after dosing. It is claimed the product must be taken regularly for the effect to be maintained as it only stays in the body for a maximum of 26 hours.

## **Research**

The Esperanza Research Foundation was established in 1986 in Florida. The Foundation is currently investigating the effects of the peptide in what they call 'open clinical trials'. Participants are expected to pay for treatment and tests (see below) and have to commit for a minimum of six months. It is not standard practise in the UK for people participating in a clinical trial to pay

for treatment. The study does not evaluate the peptide against a placebo (dummy) treatment. The goal of the study is to statistically evaluate any changes/improvements observed in participants.

Once accepted onto the study, participants undergo an initial evaluation that assesses their upper and lower body function, balance, speech and cognitive function. After the initial testing, participants receive their first dose of neuropeptide. Forty-five minutes to one hour later, the participants are re-evaluated.

Follow-up clinics are offered at three monthly intervals at which the same tests are repeated.

There is currently no peer reviewed published evidence of long-term efficacy or safety for this treatment in MS. No formal analysis of data collected so far has been reported. Accounts of any benefits of the treatment in MS are all anecdotal. It is claimed that there is often measurable improvements within the first few days of treatment in speech, balance and motor function, as well as a decrease in fatigue.

On their website, the Esperanza Research Foundation state that they plan to initiate trials in MS. They are currently trying to secure funding for phase I/II trials\* in the UK and Canada, which if successful will be followed by phase III trials.

A small trial of the peptide has been carried out in people with adrenomyeloneuropathy, a rare inherited disorder, which results in damage to myelin<sup>1</sup>. Although the treatment was well tolerated, the authors observed no significant improvements with therapy and concluded that the study did not confirm previous anecdotal reports of dramatic improvements.

## **Availability of Esperanza Homeopathic Neuropeptide**

The Esperanza Research foundation runs clinics around the UK.

### **Cost of treatment**

Esperanza state that the 12 and 18 month supplies are subsidised.

Half year	£3,750
12 months	£5,450
18 months	£7,450

### **References**

1. Mundy HR, Jones SJ, Hobart JC, et al.  
A randomized controlled study of modified cobratoxin in  
adrenomyeloneuropathy.  
Neurology 2003; 61(4): 528-530.

### **\*Note - Drug trials**

Phase I studies primarily assess the safety of a drug or procedure. They usually involve a small number of healthy volunteers (10-100) all of whom are given the same treatment.

Once a medical intervention has been proven safe, phase II trials test its effectiveness and whether it has the potential to be of benefit. These trials are larger, typically involving 100-300 people with the condition for which the intervention has been developed – in this case MS.

If the phase II study shows the treatment to be beneficial, phase III studies are conducted to gain a definitive understanding of the effectiveness, benefits and potential side effects in a large group of people (300-3,000) with the condition to be treated. Interventions have to successfully complete a phase III trial before they can be considered for a licence by regulatory authorities.

## Publications

We hope that you have found this information helpful. The MS Trust offers a wide range of publications, including our quarterly newsletter *Open Door*, which provides an update on research and latest developments. Our website is regularly updated [www.mstrust.org.uk](http://www.mstrust.org.uk)

**Contact us to receive our newsletter or to request another publication.  
All our services are free within the UK, but your donation  
allows us to continue our work.**

## MS Trust Information Service

The MS Trust Information Service is here to answer YOUR questions about MS. To contact us you can:

**phone** 01462 476700 (Lines are open Monday – Friday 9am-5pm)

**email** [infoteam@mstrust.org.uk](mailto:infoteam@mstrust.org.uk)

**write** MS Trust  
Spirella Building, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 4ET

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