



# Diabetes Stories

## ♦♦ Why did you decide to prescribe a rapid acting insulin biosimilar? ♦♦

So I think as a prescriber with the current economic climate, it's really important that we are prescribing the right insulins for our patients, but also taking into consideration the cost effectiveness of these medications as well.

## ♦♦ Did you have any concerns about using a biosimilar insulin? And if so, what did you learn that put your mind at ease? ♦♦

So when the biosimilar insulins first came onto the market, we invited the company representatives into our diabetes department to talk through their mode of action and some of the safety data. This gave us as a team the ability to ask questions, and we were also provided with information for us as health care professionals, but also for our patients as well.

## ♦♦ How has the patient experience been in using a rapid acting insulin biosimilar? ♦♦

So to date, we've had no clinical concerns from any of our patients about the use of rapid acting biosimilar insulins, and I think most individuals trust us as health care professionals to make the right choice for them and prescribe them insulin which is clinically relevant for them at the time.

## ♦♦ What practical recommendations can you give to other clinicians when initiating new patients on a rapid acting insulin biosimilar or when doing an opportunistic switch of an existing patient if appropriate? ♦♦

So within our trust, we now use rapid acting biosimilar insulins as first line for all patients that are started on a pedestal bolus regime, and that includes patients that have type one and type two diabetes, and we are looking out for opportunistic switches on top of this. So for example, recently we had a cohort of patients that were switching pump onto a new brand.

So we took the opportunity to review their current insulins and actually switched them across to the rapid acting biosimilar insulin at the same time.



## Paula Johnston

Paula Johnston, Lead inpatient Diabetes Specialist Nurse at University Hospital, Southampton, decided to prescribe a rapid acting insulin biosimilar achieving positive patient experience with this biosimilar and did an opportunistic switch of existing patients, when appropriate.

## Prescribing Information:

### Trurapi ▼ (Insulin aspart 100 units/ml)

**Please refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) before prescribing.** **Presentation:** Trurapi 100 units/ml (equivalent to 3.5 mg)

solution for injection in a vial, each containing 10ml of solution for injection, equivalent to 1000 units. Trurapi 100 units/ml solution for injection in a cartridge or in a pre-filled pen, each containing 3ml of solution for injection, equivalent to 300 units insulin aspart.

**Indication:** The treatment of diabetes mellitus in adults, adolescents and children aged 1 year and above.

**Dosage and Administration:** Trurapi is a rapid-acting insulin analogue, normally used in combination with intermediate-acting or long-acting insulin. Trurapi should not be mixed with any other insulin. The dosage should be determined by the physician in accordance with individual patient needs. Blood glucose monitoring and insulin dose adjustments are recommended to achieve optimal glycaemic control. The individual insulin requirement in adults and children is usually 0.5–1.0 unit/kg/day. In a basal-bolus treatment regimen 50–70% of this requirement may be provided by Trurapi and the remainder by intermediate-acting or long-acting insulin. Adjustment of dose may be necessary if patients undertake increased physical activity, change their usual diet or during concomitant illness (see Precautions and Warnings). Transfer from other insulin medicinal products: When transferring from other insulin medicinal products, adjustment of the Trurapi and basal insulin dose may be necessary as Trurapi has a faster onset and a shorter duration of action than soluble human insulin. When injected subcutaneously into the abdominal wall, the onset of action will occur within 10–20 minutes of injection. The maximum effect is exerted 1–3 hours after the injection with duration of action of 3–5 hours. Subcutaneous administration: This should be in the upper arms, thighs, buttocks or abdomen and injection sites should always be rotated within the same region in order to reduce the risk of lipodystrophy and cutaneous amyloidosis. Subcutaneous injection in the abdominal wall ensures a faster absorption than other injection sites and faster onset of action of insulin aspart is maintained regardless of the injection site. The duration of action will vary according to the dose, injection site, blood flow, temperature and level of physical activity. Due to the faster onset of action, insulin aspart should generally be given immediately before a meal. When necessary insulin aspart can be given soon after a meal. Trurapi in cartridges: only suitable for subcutaneous injections from a specified type of reusable pen. Trurapi in pre-filled pen: only suitable for subcutaneous injections. Trurapi in pre-filled pen delivers 1–80 units in increments of 1 unit. Patients must visually verify the dialled units on the dose counter of the pen. Therefore, the requirement for patients to self-inject is that they can read the dose counter on the pen. Patients who are blind or have poor vision must be instructed to always get help/assistance from another person who has good vision and is trained in using the insulin device. Administration via an insulin infusion pump (Trurapi vials only): CSII should be administered in the abdominal wall and infusion sites should be rotated. Patients using CSII should be comprehensively instructed in the use of the pump system and use the correct reservoir and tubing for the pump. The infusion set (tubing and cannula) should be changed in accordance with the instructions in the product information supplied with the infusion set. An alternative insulin delivery method should be available in case of pump system failure. Intravenous administration (Trurapi vials only): This should be carried out by physicians or other healthcare staff following normal clinical practice for intravenous injections. Monitoring of blood glucose is necessary during insulin infusion.

**Special Populations:** Elderly patients (≥ 65 years old) and renal/hepatic impairment: Trurapi can be used in elderly patients and patients with renal or hepatic impairment; glucose monitoring should be intensified and dose adjusted on an individual basis. Paediatric population: Trurapi can be used in adolescents and children aged 1 year and above in preference to soluble

human insulin when a rapid onset of action might be beneficial, for example, in the timing of the injections in relation to meals. The safety and efficacy in children below 1 year of age have not been established.

**Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to insulin aspart or to any of the excipients.

**Precautions and Warnings:** Traceability: The name and the batch number of the administered product should be clearly recorded to improve the traceability. Injection technique: Patients must be instructed to perform continuous rotation of the injection site to reduce the risk of developing lipodystrophy and cutaneous amyloidosis. There is a potential risk of delayed insulin absorption and worsened glycaemic control following insulin injections at sites with these reactions. A sudden change in the injection site to an unaffected area has been reported to result in hypoglycaemia. Blood glucose monitoring is recommended after the change in the injection site, and dose adjustment of antidiabetic medicinal products may be considered. Hyperglycaemia: Inadequate dosing or discontinuation of treatment, especially in type 1 diabetes, may lead to hyperglycaemia and diabetic ketoacidosis. Usually the first symptoms of hyperglycaemia develop gradually over a period of hours or days. They include thirst, increased frequency of urination, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, flushed dry skin, dry mouth, loss of appetite as well as acetone odour of breath. In type 1 diabetes, untreated hyperglycaemic events eventually lead to diabetic ketoacidosis, which is potentially lethal.

Hypoglycaemia: Omission of a meal or unplanned, strenuous physical exercise may lead to hypoglycaemia. Especially in children, care should be taken to match insulin doses (especially in basal-bolus regimens) with food intake, physical activities and current blood glucose level in order to minimise the risk of hypoglycaemia. Hypoglycaemia may occur if the insulin dose is too high in relation to the insulin requirement and in case of hypoglycaemia or if hypoglycaemia is suspected insulin aspart must not be injected. After stabilisation of patient's blood glucose adjustment of the dose should be considered. Patients whose blood glucose control is greatly improved may experience a change in their usual warning symptoms of hypoglycaemia, and usual warning symptoms may disappear in patients with longstanding diabetes, so patients should be advised accordingly. Hypoglycaemia in rapid-acting insulin analogues may occur earlier after an injection when compared with soluble human insulin and since insulin aspart should be administered immediately in relation to a meal, the rapid onset should be considered in patients with concomitant diseases or treatment where a delayed absorption of food might be expected. Concomitant illness usually increases the patient's insulin requirements and concomitant diseases in the kidney, liver or affecting the adrenal, pituitary or thyroid gland can require changes in the insulin dose. When patients are transferred between different types of insulin medicinal products, the early warning symptoms of hypoglycaemia may change or become less pronounced than those experienced with their previous insulin. Transfer from other insulin medicinal products: Should be done under strict medical supervision. If dose adjustment is needed, it may occur with the first dose or during the first few weeks or months. Close glucose monitoring is recommended during the transfer and in the initial weeks thereafter. Injection site reactions (including lipodystrophy and cutaneous amyloidosis): As with any insulin therapy, injection site reactions may occur and include pain, redness, hives, inflammation, bruising, swelling and itching. Continuous rotation of the injection site within a given area reduces the risk of developing these reactions and these usually resolve in a few days to a few weeks. Continuous rotation of the injection site also reduces the risk of developing lipodystrophy and cutaneous amyloidosis. Blood glucose monitoring is recommended after the change in the injection site due to risk of hypoglycaemia, and dose adjustment of antidiabetic medications may be considered. On rare occasions, injection site reactions may require discontinuation of insulin aspart. Combination with pioglitazone: Cases of

cardiac failure have been reported when pioglitazone was used in combination with insulin, especially in patients with risk factors for development of cardiac heart failure. Pioglitazone should be discontinued if any deterioration in cardiac symptoms occurs. **Medication errors:** Patients must be instructed to always check the insulin label before each injection to avoid accidental mix-ups between Trurapi and other insulin medicinal products. **Insulin antibodies:** Insulin administration may cause insulin antibodies to form, which in rare cases may necessitate adjustment of the insulin dose to correct a tendency to hyper- or hypoglycaemia. **Travel:** Patients should seek physician advice before travelling to different time zones as this may mean that the insulin and meals may be taken at different times. **Sodium:** This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23mg) per dose, that is to say essentially "sodium free". **Interactions:** Several medicinal products are known to interact with the glucose metabolism. **Substances that may reduce insulin requirements:** Oral antidiabetic medicinal products, monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI), beta-blockers, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, salicylates, anabolic steroids and sulphonamides. **Substances that may increase insulin requirements:** Oral contraceptives, thiazides, glucocorticoids, thyroid hormones, sympathomimetics, growth hormone and danazol. **Other potential interactions of note:** Octreotide/lanreotide may either increase or decrease the insulin requirement. Beta-blockers may mask the symptoms of hypoglycaemia. Alcohol may intensify or reduce the hypoglycaemic effect of insulin. **Pregnancy and Breast-Feeding:** **Pregnancy:** It is essential to maintain good control of the insulin-treated (insulin-dependent or gestational diabetes) patient throughout pregnancy and intensified blood glucose control and monitoring of pregnant women with diabetes are recommended throughout pregnancy and when contemplating pregnancy. Data from two randomised controlled clinical trials do not indicate any adverse reaction of insulin aspart

on pregnancy or on the health of the fetus/newborn when compared to human insulin. **Breast-feeding:** There are no restrictions on treatment with Trurapi during breast-feeding, but the dose may need to be adjusted.

**Adverse Reactions:** Adverse reactions observed in patients using Trurapi are mainly due to the pharmacologic effect of insulin. Hypoglycaemia is the most frequent adverse reaction and may occur if the insulin dose is too high in relation to the insulin requirement. **Uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$  to  $< 1/100$ ):** urticaria, rash, eruptions, refraction disorders, diabetic retinopathy, injection site reactions such as lipodystrophy and oedema that can be reduced by continuous rotation of the injection site. **Rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$  to  $< 1/1,000$ ):** Peripheral neuropathy (painful neuropathy). **Very rare ( $< 1/10,000$ ):** anaphylactic reactions which can potentially be life threatening. **Frequency not known:** cutaneous amyloidosis. **Special populations:** The frequency, type and severity of adverse reactions observed in the paediatric population, elderly patients and patients with renal or hepatic impairment do not indicate any differences to the broader experience in the general population. *Prescribers should consult the SPC in relation to other adverse reactions.*

**Legal Category:** POM

**Marketing Authorisation (MA) Holder:** Sanofi, 410 Thames Valley Park Drive, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1PT, UK.

**GB List price and MA numbers:** *Trurapi 100 units/ml solution for injection in vial 1 x 10ml:* £11.97 – PLGB 04425/0891. *Trurapi 100 units/ml solution for injection in cartridge 5 x 3ml:* £19.82 – PLGB 04425/0885. *Trurapi 100 units/ml solution for injection in pre-filled pen 5 x 3ml:* £21.42 – PLGB 04425/0886.

**Further information is available from:** Medical Information, Sanofi, 410 Thames Valley Park Drive, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1PT, UK.

[uk-medicalinformation@sanofi.com](mailto:uk-medicalinformation@sanofi.com). **SmPC Date:** 29/03/2023

**Date of preparation:** April 2023.

**Document Number:** MAT-XU-2301609 (v1.0)

**Adverse events should be reported. Reporting forms and information can be found at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.**

**Adverse events should also be reported to Sanofi Tel: 0800 090 2314. Alternatively, send via email to [UK-drugsafety@sanofi.com](mailto:UK-drugsafety@sanofi.com)**