

Contact Us Toll Free at 1.866.208.3430

Laboratory Testing

Overview

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and the drugs that are used to treat MS, can affect many parts of the human body. Because of this, MS patients receive many laboratory tests. These tests usually occur more frequently at the start of disease-modifying therapy and become less frequent as patients continue their medicines. Since lab tests can be very confusing, Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy has prepared the following summary for lab tests specific to Copaxone.

Copaxone (*glatiramer acetate*)

White Blood Cell count (abbreviated as "WBC count")

- Unlike other disease-modifying MS drugs, Copaxone does not require regular lab tests of white blood cell levels.
- Neurologists may still administer lab tests at the start of Copaxone therapy, and periodically after that.

Live Function Tests

- Unlike other disease-modifying MS drugs, Copaxone does not require regular lab testing of liver function.
- Neurologists may still administer lab tests at the start of Copaxone therapy, and periodically after that.

Thyroid Levels

- Your body uses thyroid hormone to regulate energy levels. Thyroid hormone levels are often low in MS patients. Therefore, patients taking Copaxone should have their thyroid level monitored regularly, just like all MS patients.
- Thyroid levels are often measured at yearly checkups.
- If your thyroid function is low, your "T4" level will be low, but your "TSH" level will be high.
- Ask your neurologist or a pharmacist at Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy if you have any questions about your thyroid level tests or information pertaining to it.

For questions or concerns regarding any of the above statements or recommendations, please feel free to contact Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy Toll Free at 1.866.208.3430.

References:

1. Frohman E, Phillips T, Kokel K, Pelt JV, O'Leary S, Gross S et al. Disease-modifying therapy in multiple sclerosis: strategies for optimizing management. *The Neurologist*. 2002; 2:227-236.
2. Crayton H, Heyman RA, Rossman HS. A multimodal approach to managing the symptoms of multiple sclerosis. *Neurology* 2004; 63 (suppl 5): S12-S18.