ANNEX I

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled injector

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe

Each pre-filled syringe contains 6 mg of pegfilgrastim* in 0.6 mL solution for injection. The concentration is 10 mg/mL based on protein only**.

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled injector

Each pre-filled injector contains 6 mg of pegfilgrastim* in 0.6 mL solution for injection. The concentration is 10 mg/mL based on protein only**.

* Produced in *Escherichia coli* cells by recombinant DNA technology followed by conjugation with polyethylene glycol (PEG).
** The concentration is 20 mg/mL if the PEG moiety is included.

The potency of this medicinal product should not be compared to the potency of another pegylated or non-pegylated protein of the same therapeutic class. For more information, see section 5.1.

Excipient with known effect
Each pre-filled syringe or pre-filled injector contains 30 mg sorbitol (E420).

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection.

Clear, colourless solution for injection.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Reduction in the duration of neutropenia and the incidence of febrile neutropenia in adult patients treated with cytotoxic chemotherapy for malignancy (with the exception of chronic myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndromes).

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Pelgraz therapy should be initiated and supervised by physicians experienced in oncology and/or haematology.

Posology

One 6 mg dose (a single pre-filled syringe or pre-filled injector) of Pelgraz is recommended for each chemotherapy cycle, given at least 24 hours after cytotoxic chemotherapy.

Special populations

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of Pelgraz in children and adolescents has not yet been established. Currently available data are described in sections 4.8, 5.1 and 5.2 but no recommendation on a posology can be made.

Patients with renal impairment

No dose change is recommended in patients with renal impairment, including those with end-stage renal disease.

Method of administration

Pelgraz is for subcutaneous use. The injections should be given subcutaneously into the thigh, abdomen or upper arm.

For instructions on handling of the medicinal product before administration, see section 6.6.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Traceability

In order to improve the traceability of biological medicinal products, the trade name of the administered product should be clearly recorded.

Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML)

Limited clinical data suggest a comparable effect on time to recovery of severe neutropenia for pegfilgrastim to filgrastim in patients with *de novo* AML (see section 5.1). However, the long-term effects of pegfilgrastim have not been established in AML; therefore, it should be used with caution in this patient population.

G-CSF can promote growth of myeloid cells *in vitro* and similar effects may be seen on some non-myeloid cells *in vitro*.

The safety and efficacy of pegfilgrastim have not been investigated in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome, chronic myelogenous leukaemia, and in patients with secondary AML; therefore, it should not be used in such patients. Particular care should be taken to distinguish the diagnosis of blast transformation of chronic myeloid leukaemia from AML.

The safety and efficacy of pegfilgrastim administration in *de novo* AML patients aged < 55 years with cytogenetics t(15;17) have not been established.

The safety and efficacy of pegfilgrastim have not been investigated in patients receiving high dose chemotherapy. This medicinal product should not be used to increase the dose of cytotoxic chemotherapy beyond established dose regimens.

Pulmonary adverse reactions

Pulmonary adverse reactions, in particular interstitial pneumonia, have been reported after G-CSF administration. Patients with a recent history of pulmonary infiltrates or pneumonia may be at higher risk (see section 4.8).

The onset of pulmonary signs such as cough, fever, and dyspnoea in association with radiological signs of pulmonary infiltrates, and deterioration in pulmonary function along with increased neutrophil count may be preliminary signs of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). In such circumstances pegfilgrastim should be discontinued at the discretion of the physician and the appropriate treatment given (see section 4.8).

Glomerulonephritis

Glomerulonephritis has been reported in patients receiving filgrastim and pegfilgrastim. Generally, events of glomerulonephritis resolved after dose reduction or withdrawal of filgrastim and pegfilgrastim. Urinalysis monitoring is recommended.

Capillary leak syndrome

Capillary leak syndrome has been reported after G-CSF administration and is characterised by hypotension, hypoalbuminaemia, oedema and haemoconcentration. Patients who develop symptoms of capillary leak syndrome should be closely monitored and receive standard symptomatic treatment, which may include a need for intensive care (see section 4.8).

Splenomegaly and splenic rupture

Generally asymptomatic cases of splenomegaly and cases of splenic rupture, including some fatal cases, have been reported following administration of pegfilgrastim (see section 4.8). Therefore, spleen size should be carefully monitored (e.g. clinical examination, ultrasound). A diagnosis of splenic rupture should be considered in patients reporting left upper abdominal pain or shoulder tip pain.

Thrombocytopenia and anaemia

Treatment with pegfilgrastim alone does not preclude thrombocytopenia and anaemia because full dose myelosuppressive chemotherapy is maintained on the prescribed schedule. Regular monitoring of platelet count and haematocrit is recommended. Special care should be taken when administering single or combination chemotherapeutic medicinal products which are known to cause severe thrombocytopenia.

Myelodysplastic syndrome and acute myeloid leukaemia in breast and lung cancer patients

In the post-marketing observational study setting, pegfilgrastim in conjunction with chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy has been associated with development of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) in breast and lung cancer patients (see section 4.8). Monitor breast and lung cancer patients for signs and symptoms of MDS/AML.

Sickle cell anaemia

Sickle cell crises have been associated with the use of pegfilgrastim in patients with sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease (see section 4.8). Therefore, physicians should use caution when prescribing pegfilgrastim in patients with sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease, should monitor appropriate clinical parameters and laboratory status and be attentive to the possible association of this medicinal product with splenic enlargement and vaso-occlusive crisis.

Leukocytosis

White blood cell (WBC) counts of 100×10^9/L or greater have been observed in less than 1% of patients receiving pegfilgrastim. No adverse reactions directly attributable to this degree of leukocytosis have been reported. Such elevation in WBCs is transient, typically seen 24 to 48 hours after administration and is consistent with the pharmacodynamic effects of this medicinal product. Consistent with the clinical effects and the potential for leukocytosis, a WBC count should be performed at regular intervals during therapy. If leukocyte counts exceed 50×10^9/L after the expected nadir, this medicinal product should be discontinued immediately.

Hypersensitivity

Hypersensitivity, including anaphylactic reactions, occurring on initial or subsequent treatment have been reported in patients treated with pegfilgrastim. Permanently discontinue pegfilgrastim in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity. Do not administer pegfilgrastim to patients with a history of hypersensitivity to pegfilgrastim or filgrastim. If a serious allergic reaction occurs, appropriate therapy should be administered, with close patient follow-up over several days.

Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS)

SJS, which can be life-threatening or fatal, has been reported rarely in association with pegfilgrastim treatment. If the patient has developed SJS with the use of pegfilgrastim, treatment with pegfilgrastim must not be restarted in this patient at any time.

Immunogenicity

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity. Rates of generation of antibodies against pegfilgrastim is generally low. Binding antibodies do occur as expected with all biologics; however, they have not been associated with neutralising activity at present.

Aortitis

Aortitis has been reported after filgrastim or pegfilgrastim administration in healthy subjects and in cancer patients. The symptoms experienced included fever, abdominal pain, malaise, back pain and increased inflammatory markers (e.g. C-reactive protein and WBC count). In most cases aortitis was diagnosed by CT scan and generally resolved after withdrawal of filgrastim or pegfilgrastim. See also section 4.8.

Mobilisation of PBPC

The safety and efficacy of Pelgraz for the mobilisation of blood progenitor cells in patients or healthy donors has not been adequately evaluated.

Other special precautions

Increased haematopoietic activity of the bone marrow in response to growth factor therapy has been associated with transient positive bone-imaging findings. This should be considered when interpreting bone-imaging results.

All patients

The needle cover of the pre-filled syringe contains dry natural rubber (a derivative of latex), which may cause allergic reactions.

Excipients

Sorbitol
The additive effect of concomitantly administered products containing sorbitol (or fructose) and dietary intake of sorbitol (or fructose) should be taken into account.

Sodium
This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per 6 mg dose, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Due to the potential sensitivity of rapidly dividing myeloid cells to cytotoxic chemotherapy, pegfilgrastim should be administered at least 24 hours after administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy. In clinical trials, pegfilgrastim has been safely administered 14 days before chemotherapy. Concomitant use of Pelgraz with any chemotherapeutic medicinal product has not been evaluated in patients. In animal models concomitant administration of pegfilgrastim and 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) or other antimetabolites has been shown to potentiate myelosuppression.

Possible interactions with other haematopoietic growth factors and cytokines have not been specifically investigated in clinical trials.

The potential for interaction with lithium, which also promotes the release of neutrophils, has not been specifically investigated. There is no evidence that such an interaction would be harmful.

The safety and efficacy of Pelgraz have not been evaluated in patients receiving chemotherapy associated with delayed myelosuppression e.g. nitrosoureas.

Specific interaction or metabolism studies have not been performed, however, clinical trials have not indicated an interaction of pegfilgrastim with any other medicinal products.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There are no or limited amount of data from the use of pegfilgrastim in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). Pegfilgrastim is not recommended during pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential not using contraception.

Breast-feeding

There is insufficient information on the excretion of pegfilgrastim/metabolites in human milk, a risk to the newborns/infants cannot be excluded. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to discontinue/abstain from pegfilgrastim therapy taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

Fertility

Pegfilgrastim did not affect reproductive performance or fertility in male or female rats at cumulative weekly doses approximately 6 to 9 times higher than the recommended human dose (based on body surface area) (see section 5.3).

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Pegfilgrastim has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

The most frequently reported adverse reactions were bone pain (very common [≥ 1/10]) and musculoskeletal pain (common [≥ 1/100 to < 1/10]). Bone pain was generally of mild to moderate severity, transient and could be controlled in most patients with standard analgesics.

Hypersensitivity-type reactions, including skin rash, urticaria, angioedema, dyspnoea, erythaema, flushing, and hypotension occurred on initial or subsequent treatment with pegfilgrastim (uncommon [≥ 1/1 000 to < 1/100]). Serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis can occur in patients receiving pegfilgrastim (uncommon) (see section 4.4).

Capillary Leak Syndrome, which can be life-threatening if treatment is delayed, has been reported as uncommon (≥ 1/1 000 to < 1/100) in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy following administration of G-CSFs; see section 4.4 and section "Description of selected adverse reactions" below.

Splenomegaly, generally asymptomatic, is uncommon.

Splenic rupture including some fatal cases is uncommonly reported following administration of pegfilgrastim (see section 4.4).

Uncommon pulmonary adverse reactions including interstitial pneumonia, pulmonary oedema, pulmonary infiltrates and pulmonary fibrosis have been reported. Uncommonly, cases have resulted in respiratory failure or ARDS, which may be fatal (see section 4.4).

Isolated cases of sickle cell crises have been reported in patients with sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease (uncommon in sickle cell patients) (see section 4.4).

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

The data in the table below describe adverse reactions reported from clinical trials and spontaneous reporting. Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

MedDRA system organ class	**Adverse reactions**				
	Very common (≥ 1/10)	**Common (≥ 1/100 to < 1/10)**	**Uncommon (≥ 1/1,000 to < 1/100)**	**Rare (≥ 1/10,000 to < 1/1,000)**	**Very rare (< 1/10,000)**
Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (incl cysts and polyps)			Myelodysplastic syndrome[1] Acute myeloid leukaemia[1]		
Blood and lymphatic system disorders		Thrombocytopenia[1] Leukocytosis[1]	Sickle cell anaemia with crisis[2] Splenomegaly[2] Splenic rupture[2]		
Immune system disorders			Hypersensitivity reactions; Anaphylaxis		

Metabolism and nutrition disorders			Elevations in uric acid		
Nervous system disorders	Headache[1]				
Vascular disorders			Capillary leak syndrome[1]	Aortitis	
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders			Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome[2]; Pulmonary adverse reactions (interstitial pneumonia, pulmonary oedema, pulmonary infiltrates and pulmonary fibrosis) Haemoptysis	Pulmonary haemorrhage	
Gastrointestinal disorders	Nausea[1]				
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders			Sweet's syndrome (acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis)[1,2] Cutaneous vasculitis[1,2]	Stevens-Johnson syndrome	
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Bone pain	Musculoskeletal pain (myalgia, arthralgia, pain in extremity, back pain, musculo-skeletal pain, neck pain)			
Renal and urinary disorders			Glomerulonephritis[2]		
General disorders and administrative site conditions		Injection site pain[1] Non-cardiac chest pain	Injection site reactions[2]		
Investigations			Elevations in lactate dehydrogenase and alkaline phosphatase[1] Transient elevations in LFTs for ALT or AST[1]		

[1] See section "Description of selected adverse reactions" below.

[2] This adverse reaction was identified through post-marketing surveillance but not observed in randomised, controlled clinical trials in adults. The frequency category was estimated from a statistical calculation based upon 1,576 patients receiving pegfilgrastim in nine randomised clinical trials.

Description of selected adverse reactions

Uncommon cases of Sweet's syndrome have been reported, although in some cases underlying haematological malignancies may play a role.

Uncommon events of cutaneous vasculitis have been reported in patients treated with pegfilgrastim. The mechanism of vasculitis in patients receiving pegfilgrastim is unknown.

Injection site reactions, including injection site erythaema (uncommon) as well as injection site pain (common events) have occurred on initial or subsequent treatment with pegfilgrastim.

Common cases of leukocytosis (WBC > 100 × 10^9/L) have been reported (see section 4.4).

Reversible, mild to moderate elevations in uric acid and alkaline phosphatase, with no associated clinical effects, were uncommon; reversible, mild to moderate elevations in lactate dehydrogenase, with no associated clinical effects, were uncommon in patients receiving pegfilgrastim following cytotoxic chemotherapy.

Nausea and headaches were very commonly observed in patients receiving chemotherapy.

Uncommon elevations in liver function tests (LFTs) for alanine aminotransferase (ALT) or aspartate aminotransferase (AST), have been observed in patients after receiving pegfilgrastim following cytotoxic chemotherapy. These elevations are transient and return to baseline.

An increased risk of MDS/AML following treatment with Pelgraz in conjunction with chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy has been observed in an epidemiological study in breast and lung cancer patients (see section 4.4).

Common cases of thrombocytopenia have been reported.

Cases of capillary leak syndrome have been reported in the post-marketing setting with G-CSF use. These have generally occurred in patients with advanced malignant diseases, sepsis, taking multiple chemotherapy medicinal products or undergoing apheresis (see section 4.4).

Paediatric population

The experience in children is limited. A higher frequency of serious adverse reactions in younger children aged 0-5 years (92%) has been observed compared to older children aged 6-11 and 12-21 years respectively (80% and 67%) and adults. The most common adverse reaction reported was bone pain (see sections 5.1 and 5.2).

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V.

4.9 Overdose

Single doses of 300 mcg/kg have been administered subcutaneously to a limited number of healthy volunteers and patients with non-small cell lung cancer without serious adverse reactions. The adverse reactions were similar to those in subjects receiving lower doses of pegfilgrastim.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: immunostimulants, colony stimulating factor; ATC Code: L03AA13

Pelgraz is a biosimilar medicinal product. Detailed information is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency http://www.ema.europa.eu.

Human granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-CSF) is a glycoprotein, which regulates the production and release of neutrophils from the bone marrow. Pegfilgrastim is a covalent conjugate of recombinant human G-CSF (r-metHuG-CSF) with a single 20 kd Poly Ethylene Glycol molecule. Pegfilgrastim is a sustained duration form of filgrastim due to decreased renal clearance. Pegfilgrastim and filgrastim have been shown to have identical modes of action, causing a marked increase in peripheral blood neutrophil counts within 24 hours, with minor increases in monocytes and/or lymphocytes. Similarly to filgrastim, neutrophils produced in response to pegfilgrastim show normal or enhanced function as demonstrated by tests of chemotactic and phagocytic function. As with other haematopoietic growth factors, G-CSF has shown *in vitro* stimulating properties on human endothelial cells. G-CSF can promote growth of myeloid cells, including malignant cells, *in vitro* and similar effects may be seen on some non-myeloid cells *in vitro*.

In two randomised, double-blind, pivotal studies in patients with high-risk stage II-IV breast cancer undergoing myelosuppressive chemotherapy consisting of doxorubicin and docetaxel, use of pegfilgrastim, as a single once per cycle dose, reduced the duration of neutropenia and the incidence of febrile neutropenia similarly to that observed with daily administrations of filgrastim (a median of 11 daily administrations). In the absence of growth factor support, this regimen has been reported to result in a mean duration of grade 4 neutropenia of 5 to7 days, and a 30-40% incidence of febrile neutropenia. In one study (n = 157), which used a 6 mg fixed dose of pegfilgrastim the mean duration of grade 4 neutropenia for the pegfilgrastim group was 1.8 days compared with 1.6 days in the filgrastim group (difference 0.23 days, 95% CI -0.15, 0.63). Over the entire study, the rate of febrile neutropenia was 13% of pegfilgrastim-treated patients compared with 20% of filgrastim-treated patients (difference 7%, 95% CI of -19%, 5%). In a second study (n = 310), which used a weight adjusted dose (100 mcg/kg), the mean duration of grade 4 neutropenia for the pegfilgrastim group was 1.7 days, compared with 1.8 days in the filgrastim group (difference 0.03 days, 95% CI -0.36, 0.30). The overall rate of febrile neutropenia was 9% of patients treated with pegfilgrastim and 18% of patients treated with filgrastim (difference 9%, 95% CI of -16.8%,-1.1%).

In a placebo-controlled, double-blind study in patients with breast cancer the effect of pegfilgrastim on the incidence of febrile neutropenia was evaluated following administration of a chemotherapy regimen associated with a febrile neutropenia rate of 10-20% (docetaxel 100 mg/m^2 every 3 weeks for 4 cycles). Nine hundred and twenty eight-patients were randomised to receive either a single dose of pegfilgrastim or placebo approximately 24 hours (day 2) after chemotherapy in each cycle. The incidence of febrile neutropenia was lower for patients randomised to receive pegfilgrastim compared with placebo (1% versus 17%, $p < 0.001$). The incidence of hospitalisations and intravenous anti-infective use associated with a clinical diagnosis of febrile neutropenia was lower in the pegfilgrastim group compared with placebo (1% versus 14%, $p < 0.001$; and 2% versus 10%, $p < 0.001$).

A small (n = 83), phase II, randomised, double-blind study in patients receiving chemotherapy for *de novo* AML compared pegfilgrastim (single dose of 6 mg) with filgrastim, administered during induction chemotherapy. Median time to recovery from severe neutropenia was estimated as 22 days in both treatment groups. Long term-outcome was not studied (see section 4.4).

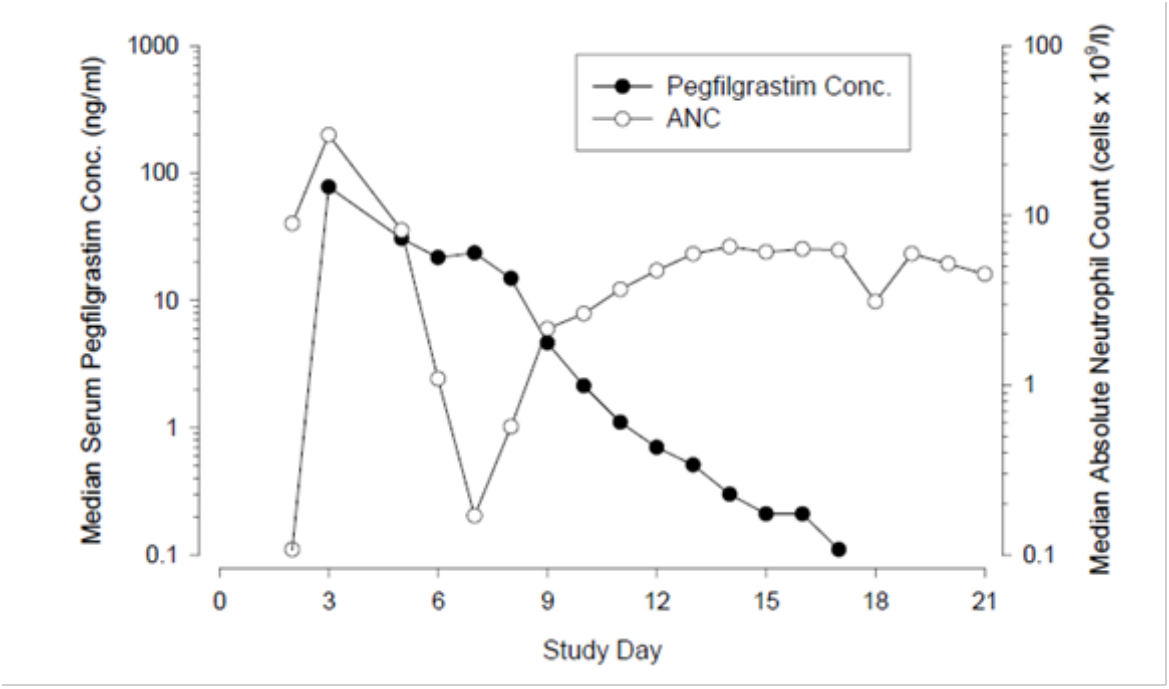
In a phase II (n = 37) multicentre, randomised, open-label study of paediatric sarcoma patients receiving 100 mcg/kg pegfilgrastim following cycle 1 of vincristine, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide (VAdriaC/IE) chemotherapy, a longer duration of severe neutropenia (neutrophils

$< 0.5 \times 10^9$/L) was observed in younger children aged 0-5 years (8.9 days) compared to older children aged 6-11 years and 12-21 years (6 days and 3.7 days, respectively) and adults. Additionally a higher incidence of febrile neutropenia was observed in younger children aged 0-5 years (75%) compared to older children aged 6-11 years and 12-21 years (70% and 33%, respectively) and adults (see sections 4.8 and 5.2).

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

After a single subcutaneous dose of pegfilgrastim, the peak serum concentration of pegfilgrastim occurs at 16 to 120 hours after dosing and serum concentrations of pegfilgrastim are maintained during the period of neutropenia after myelosuppressive chemotherapy. The elimination of pegfilgrastim is non-linear with respect to dose; serum clearance of pegfilgrastim decreases with increasing dose. Pegfilgrastim appears to be mainly eliminated by neutrophil-mediated clearance, which becomes saturated at higher doses. Consistent with a self-regulating clearance mechanism, the serum concentration of pegfilgrastim declines rapidly at the onset of neutrophil recovery (see figure 1).

Figure 1. Profile of median pegfilgrastim serum concentration and Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) in chemotherapy treated patients after a single 6 mg injection



Due to the neutrophil-mediated clearance mechanism, the pharmacokinetics of pegfilgrastim is not expected to be affected by renal or hepatic impairment. In an open-label, single dose study (n = 31) various stages of renal impairment, including end-stage renal disease, had no impact on the pharmacokinetics of pegfilgrastim.

Elderly

Limited data indicate that the pharmacokinetics of pegfilgrastim in elderly subjects (> 65 years) is similar to that in adults.

Paediatric population

The pharmacokinetics of pegfilgrastim were studied in 37 paediatric patients with sarcoma, who received 100 mcg/kg pegfilgrastim after the completion of VAdriaC/IE chemotherapy. The youngest age group (0-5 years) had a higher mean exposure to pegfilgrastim (AUC) (± Standard Deviation) (47.9 ± 22.5 mcg·hr/ml) than older children aged 6-11 years and 12-21 years (22.0 ± 13.1 mcg·hr/mL and 29.3 ± 23.2 mcg·hr/mL, respectively) (see section 5.1). With the exception of the youngest age

group (0-5 years), the mean AUC in paediatric subjects appeared similar to that for adult patients with high-risk stage II-IV breast cancer and receiving 100 mcg/kg pegfilgrastim after the completion of doxorubicin/docetaxel (see sections 4.8 and 5.1).

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Preclinical data from conventional studies of repeated dose toxicity revealed the expected pharmacological effects including increases in leukocyte count, myeloid hyperplasia in bone marrow, extramedullary haematopoiesis and splenic enlargement.

There were no adverse effects observed in offspring from pregnant rats given pegfilgrastim subcutaneously, but in rabbits pegfilgrastim has been shown to cause embryo/foetal toxicity (embryo loss) at cumulative doses approximately 4 times the recommended human dose, which were not seen when pregnant rabbits were exposed to the recommended human dose. In rat studies, it was shown that pegfilgrastim may cross the placenta. Studies in rats indicated that reproductive performance, fertility, oestrous cycling, days between pairing and coitus, and intrauterine survival were unaffected by pegfilgrastim given subcutaneously. The relevance of these findings for humans is not known.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Sodium acetate*
Sorbitol (E420)
Polysorbate 20
Water for injections

*Sodium acetate is formed by titrating glacial acetic acid with sodium hydroxide.

6.2 Incompatibilities

This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products, particularly with sodium chloride solutions.

6.3 Shelf life

3 years.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C – 8 °C).

Pelgraz may be exposed to room temperature (not above 25 °C ± 2 °C) for a maximum single period of up to 15 days. Pelgraz left at room temperature for more than 15 days should be discarded.

Do not freeze. Accidental exposure to freezing temperatures for a single period of less than 24 hours does not adversely affect the stability of Pelgraz.

Keep the container in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

<u>Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe</u>

Pre-filled syringe (type I glass) with a permanently attached stainless steel injection needle, with a needle safety guard.

The needle cover of the pre-filled syringe contains dry natural rubber (see section 4.4).

Each pre-filled syringe contains 0.6 mL of solution for injection. Pack size of one pre-filled syringe with one alcohol swab, in a blistered packaging.

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled injector

Pre-filled injector containing a pre-filled syringe (type I glass) with a permanently attached stainless steel injection needle. The pre-filled syringe is externally equipped with the device for self-administration (pre-filled injector).

The needle cover of the pre-filled syringe contains dry natural rubber (see section 4.4).

Each pre-filled syringe injector contains 0.6 mL of solution for injection. Pack size of one pre-filled injector with one alcohol swab, in a blistered packaging.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe

Before use, Pelgraz solution should be inspected visually for particulate matter. Only a solution that is clear and colourless should be injected.

Excessive shaking may aggregate pegfilgrastim, rendering it biologically inactive.

Allow the pre -filled syringe to reach room temperature for 30 minutes before injecting.

Using the pre filled syringe with a needle safety guard

The needle safety guard covers the needle after injection to prevent needle stick injury. This does not affect normal operation of the syringe. Depress the plunger rod and **push firmly** at the end of the injection to ensure that syringe emptying is completed. Hold the skin securely until the injection is completed. Keep the syringe still and slowly lift your thumb from the plunger rod head. The plunger rod will move up with your thumb and the spring retracts the needle from the site, into the Needle safety guard.

Do not use a pre-filled syringe if it has been dropped on a hard surface.

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled injector

Before use, Pelgraz solution should be inspected visually for particulate matter. Only a solution that is clear and colourless should be injected.

Excessive shaking may aggregate pegfilgrastim, rendering it biologically inactive.

Allow the pre-filled injector to reach room temperature for 30 minutes before injecting.

Disposal

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Accord Healthcare S.L.U.

World Trade Center, Moll de Barcelona, s/n,
Edifici Est 6ª planta,
08039 Barcelona,
Spain

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

EU/1/18/1313/001
EU/1/18/1313/002

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 21st September 2018
Date of latest renewal: 23rd June 2023

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency http://www.ema.europa.eu

ANNEX II

A. MANUFACTURER OF THE BIOLOGICAL ACTIVE SUBSTANCE AND MANUFACTURER RESPONSIBLE FOR BATCH RELEASE

B. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY AND USE

C. OTHER CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION

D. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

A. MANUFACTURER OF THE BIOLOGICAL ACTIVE SUBSTANCE AND MANUFACTURER RESPONSIBLE FOR BATCH RELEASE

Name and address of the manufacturer of the biological active substance

Intas Pharmaceuticals Limited
Plot no 423 / P/A
Sarkhej Bavla Highway
Village Moraiya, Taluka Sanand,
Ahmedabad – 382213
Gujarat
INDIA

Name and address of the manufacturer responsible for batch release
Accord Healthcare Polska Sp.z o.o.,
ul. Lutomierska 50,95-200 Pabianice, Poland

Accord Healthcare Single Member S.A.,
64th Km National Road Athens
Lamia, Schimatari, 32009, Greece

The printed package leaflet of the medicinal product must state the name and address of the manufacturer responsible for the release of the concerned batch.

B. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY AND USE

Medicinal product subject to restricted medical prescription (see Annex I: Summary of Product Characteristics, section 4.2).

C. OTHER CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION

- **Periodic safety update reports (PSURs)**

The requirements for submission of PSURs for this medicinal product are set out in the list of Union reference dates (EURD list) provided for under Article 107c(7) of Directive 2001/83/EC and any subsequent updates published on the European medicines web-portal.

D. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

- **Risk management plan (RMP)**

The marketing authorisation holder (MAH) shall perform the required pharmacovigilance activities and interventions detailed in the agreed RMP presented in Module 1.8.2 of the marketing authorisation and any agreed subsequent updates of the RMP.

An updated RMP should be submitted:
- At the request of the European Medicines Agency;
- Whenever the risk management system is modified, especially as the result of new information being received that may lead to a significant change to the benefit/risk profile or as the result of an important (pharmacovigilance or risk minimisation) milestone being reached.

ANNEX III

LABELLING AND PACKAGE LEAFLET

A. LABELLING

PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING

OUTER CARTON (PRE-FILLED SYRINGE)

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe
pegfilgrastim

2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)

Each pre-filled syringe contains 6 mg of pegfilgrastim in 0.6 mL (10 mg/mL) solution for injection.

3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Excipients: sodium acetate, sorbitol (E420), polysorbate 20, water for injections. Read the package leaflet for further information.

4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS

Solution for injection
1 pre-filled syringe + 1 alcohol swab

5. METHOD AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Subcutaneous use.
Read the package leaflet before use.

6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY

Avoid vigorous shaking.

8. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS

Store in a refrigerator.
Do not freeze.
Keep the syringe in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE

11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Accord Healthcare S.L.U.
World Trade Center, Moll de Barcelona, s/n,
Edifici Est 6ª planta,
08039 Barcelona,
Spain

12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

EU/1/18/1313/001

13. BATCH NUMBER

Lot

14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY

15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE

16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE

pelgraz 6 mg

17. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER – 2D BARCODE

2D barcode carrying the unique identifier included.

18. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER - HUMAN READABLE DATA

PC
SN
NN

MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON SMALL IMMEDIATE PACKAGING UNITS

LABEL (PRE-FILLED SYRINGE)

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe
pegfilgrastim
S.C.

2. METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

3. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

4. BATCH NUMBER

Lot

5. CONTENTS BY WEIGHT, BY VOLUME OR BY UNIT

6 mg

6. OTHER

Accord

PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING

OUTER CARTON (PRE-FILLED INJECTOR)

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled injector
pegfilgrastim

2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)

Each pre-filled injector contains 6 mg of pegfilgrastim in 0.6 mL (10 mg/mL) solution for injection.

3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Excipients: sodium acetate, sorbitol (E420), polysorbate 20, water for injections. Read the package leaflet for further information.

4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS

Solution for injection
1 pre-filled injector + 1 alcohol swab

5. METHOD AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Subcutaneous use.
Read the package leaflet before use.

6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY

Avoid vigorous shaking.

8. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS

Store in a refrigerator.
Do not freeze.
Keep the pre-filled injector in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE

11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Accord Healthcare S.L.U.
World Trade Center, Moll de Barcelona, s/n,
Edifici Est 6ª planta,
08039 Barcelona,
Spain

12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

EU/1/18/1313/002

13. BATCH NUMBER

Lot

14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY

15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE

16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE

pelgraz 6 mg

17. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER – 2D BARCODE

2D barcode carrying the unique identifier included.

18. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER - HUMAN READABLE DATA

PC
SN
NN

MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON SMALL IMMEDIATE PACKAGING UNITS

LABEL (PRE-FILLED INJECTOR)

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled injector
pegfilgrastim
S.C.

2. METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

3. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

4. BATCH NUMBER

Lot

5. CONTENTS BY WEIGHT, BY VOLUME OR BY UNIT

6 mg

6. OTHER

Accord

B. PACKAGE LEAFLET

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe
pegfilgrastim

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Pelgraz is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use Pelgraz
3. How to use Pelgraz
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Pelgraz
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Pelgraz is and what it is used for

Pelgraz contains the active substance pegfilgrastim. Pegfilgrastim is a protein produced by biotechnology in bacteria called *E. coli*. It belongs to a group of proteins called cytokines, and is very similar to a natural protein (granulocyte-colony stimulating factor) produced by your own body.

Pelgraz is used to reduce the duration of neutropenia (low white blood cell count) and the occurrence of febrile neutropenia (low white blood cell count with a fever) which can be caused by the use of cytotoxic chemotherapy (medicines that destroy rapidly growing cells). White blood cells are important as they help your body fight infection. These cells are very sensitive to the effects of chemotherapy which can cause the number of these cells in your body to decrease. If white blood cells fall to a low level there may not be enough left in the body to fight bacteria and you may have an increased risk of infection.

Your doctor has given you Pelgraz to encourage your bone marrow (part of the bone which makes blood cells) to produce more white blood cells that help your body fight infection.

2. What you need to know before you use Pelgraz

Do not use Pelgraz

- if you are allergic to pegfilgrastim, filgrastim, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before using Pelgraz if you:

- experience an allergic reaction including weakness, drop in blood pressure, difficulty breathing, swelling of the face (anaphylaxis), redness and flushing, skin rash and areas of the skin that itch.

- have an allergy to latex. The needle cap on the pre-filled syringe contains a derivative of latex and may cause severe allergic reactions.
- experience a cough, fever and difficulty breathing. This can be a sign of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).
- have any of the following or combination of the following side effects:
  - swelling or puffiness, which may be associated with passing water less frequently, difficulty breathing, abdominal swelling and feeling of fullness, and a general feeling of tiredness.

  These could be symptoms of condition called "Capillary Leak Syndrome" which causes blood to leak from the small blood vessels into your body. See section 4.
- get left upper abdominal pain or pain at the tip of your shoulder. This may be a sign of a problem with your spleen (splenomegaly).
- have recently had a serious lung infection (pneumonia), fluid in the lungs (pulmonary oedema), inflammation of the lungs (interstitial lung disease) or an abnormal chest x-ray (lung infiltration).
- are aware of any altered blood cell counts (e.g. increase in white blood cells or anaemia) or decreased blood platelet counts, which reduces the ability of your blood to clot (thrombocytopenia). Your doctor may want to monitor you more closely.
- have sickle cell anaemia. Your doctor may monitor your condition more closely.
- are a patient with breast cancer or lung cancer, Pelgraz in combination with chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy may increase your risk of a precancerous blood condition called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) or a blood cancer called acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). Symptoms may include tiredness, fever, and easy bruising or bleeding.
- have sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing these could be signs of a severe allergic reaction.
- have symptoms of inflammation of the aorta (the large blood vessel which transports blood from the heart to the body), this has been reported rarely in cancer patients and healthy donors. The symptoms can include fever, abdominal pain, malaise, back pain and increased inflammatory markers (e.g. C-reactive protein and white blood cell count). Tell your doctor if you experience these symptoms.

Your doctor will check your blood and urine regularly as Pelgraz can harm the tiny filters inside your kidneys (glomerulonephritis).

Severe skin reactions (Stevens-Johnson syndrome) have been reported with the use of Pelgraz. Stop using Pelgraz and seek medical attention immediately if you notice any of the symptoms described in section 4.

You should talk to your doctor about your risks of developing cancers of the blood. If you develop or are likely to develop cancers of the blood, you should not use Pelgraz, unless instructed by your doctor.

Loss of response to pegfilgrastim

If you experience a loss of response or failure to maintain a response with pegfilgrastim treatment, your doctor will investigate the reasons why including whether you have developed antibodies which neutralise pegfilgrastim's activity.

Children and adolescents

The safety and efficacy of Pelgraz in children has not yet been established. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Other medicines and Pelgraz

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine. Pelgraz has not been tested in pregnant women. It is important to tell your doctor if you:

- are pregnant;
- think you may be pregnant; or
- are planning to have a baby.

If you become pregnant during Pelgraz treatment, please inform your doctor.

Unless your doctor directs you otherwise, you must stop breast-feeding if you use Pelgraz.

Driving and using machines

Pelgraz has no or negligible effect on the ability to drive or use machines.

Pelgraz contains sorbitol (E420) and sodium

This medicine contains 30 mg sorbitol in each pre-filled syringe which is equivalent to 50 mg/mL. This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per 6 mg dose, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'

3. How to use Pelgraz

Pelgraz is for use in adults aged 18 and over.

Always take Pelgraz exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure. The usual dose is one 6 mg subcutaneous injection (injection under your skin) using a pre-filled syringe and it should be given at least 24 hours after your last dose of chemotherapy at the end of each chemotherapy cycle.

Do not shake Pelgraz vigorously as this may affect its activity.

Injecting Pelgraz yourself

Your doctor may decide that it would be more convenient for you to inject Pelgraz yourself. Your doctor or nurse will show you how to inject yourself. Do not try to inject yourself unless you have received special training from your doctor or nurse.

The instructions how to inject yourself
are given below, but proper treatment of your disease requires close and constant co-operation with your doctor.

If you are not sure about giving yourself the injection or you have any questions, please ask your doctor or nurse for help.

How do I inject Pelgraz myself?

You will need to give yourself the injection into the tissue just under the skin. This is known as a subcutaneous injection.

Equipment that you need

To give yourself a subcutaneous injection you will need:
- a pre-filled syringe of Pelgraz;
- alcohol swab.

What should I do before I give myself a subcutaneous injection of Pelgraz?

1. Take the pre-filled syringe out of the refrigerator.
2. Do not remove the needle cover from the syringe until just before you are ready to inject.
3. Check the expiry date on the pre-filled syringe label (EXP). Do not use it if the date has passed the last day of the month shown or if it has been kept outside of the refrigerator for more than 15 days or has otherwise expired.
4. Check the appearance of Pelgraz. It must be a clear and colourless liquid. If there are particles in it, you must not use it.
5. For a more comfortable injection, let the pre-filled syringe stand for 30 minutes to reach room temperature or hold the pre-filled syringe gently in your hand for a few minutes. Do not warm Pelgraz in any other way (for example, do not warm it in a microwave or in hot water).
6. **Wash your hands thoroughly.**
7. Find a comfortable, well-lit place and put everything you need where you can reach them (the pre-filled syringe and alcohol swab).

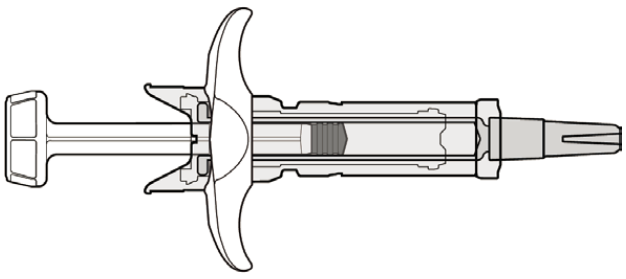
How do I prepare my Pelgraz injection?

Before you inject Pelgraz you must do the following:
Do not use a pre-filled syringe if it has been dropped on a hard surface.

Step-1: Check the integrity of the system

1. Ensure the system is intact/ not damaged. Do not use the product if you see any damage (syringe or needle safety guard breakage) or lose components and if the needle safety guard is on safety position before use as shown on picture 9 because this indicate system already operated. In general the product should not be used if it does not conform to the picture 1. If so discard the product in a biohazard (sharps) container.

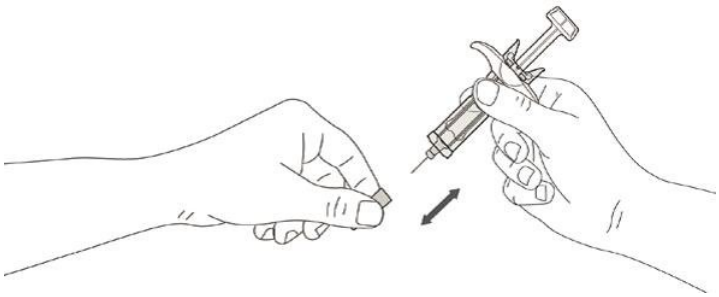
Picture 1



Step 2: Remove the Needle Cap

1. Remove the protective cap as shown in picture 2. Hold the body of the needle safety guard in one hand with the needle end pointing away from you and without touching the plunge rod. Pull the needle cap straight off with your other hand. After removal, throw away the needles cap in a biohazard (sharps) container.
2. You may notice a small air bubble in the pre-filled syringe. You do not have to remove the air bubble before injecting. Injecting the solution with the air bubble is harmless.
3. You can now use the pre-filled syringe.

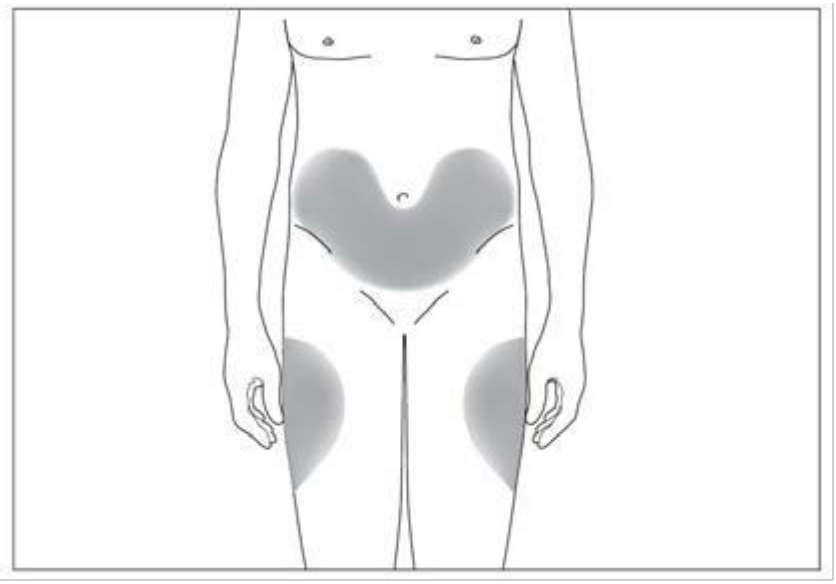
Picture 2



Where should I give my injection?

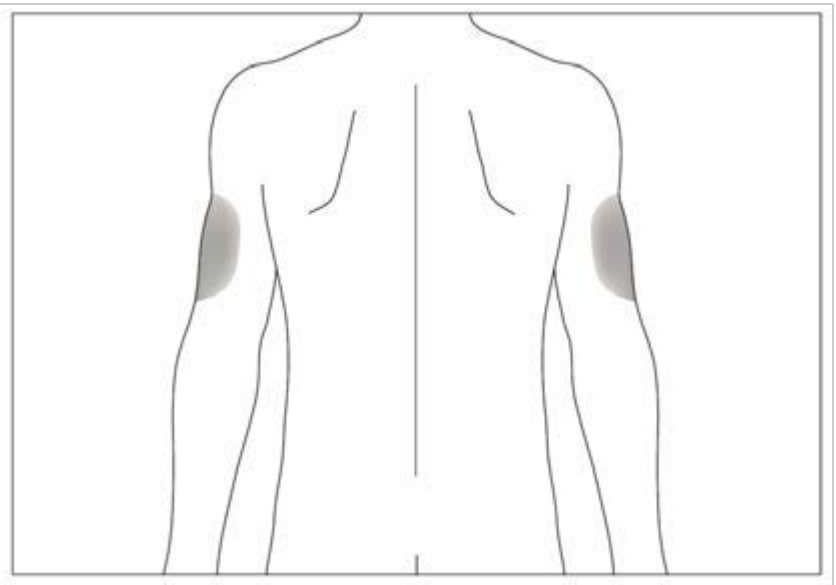
The most suitable places to inject yourself are:
- the top of your thighs; and
- the abdomen, except for the area around the navel (see picture 3).

Picture 3



If someone else is injecting you, they can also use the back of your arms (see picture 4)

Picture 4

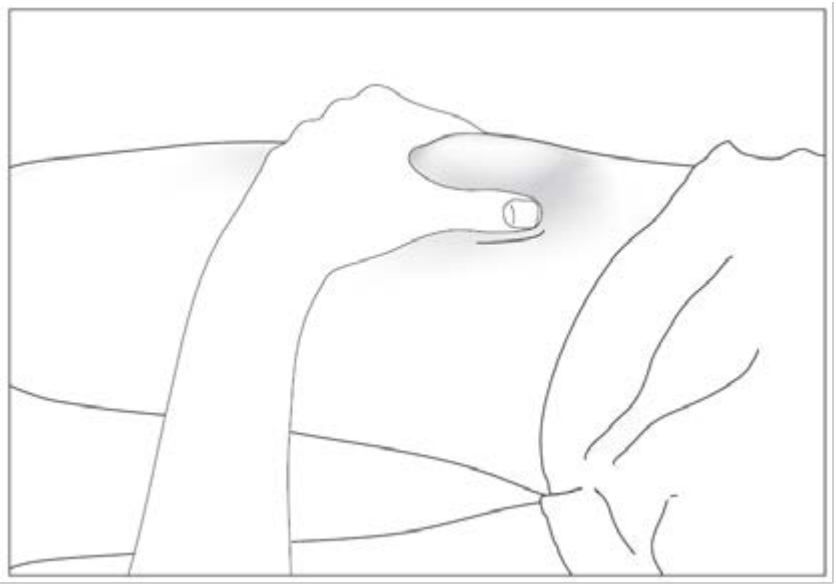


It is better to change the injection site every time to avoid the risk of soreness at any one site.

How do I give my injection?

Disinfect the injection site by using an alcohol swab and pinch the skin between your thumb and forefinger, without squeezing it (see picture 5).

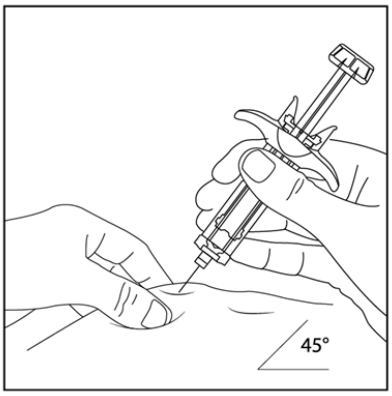
Picture 5



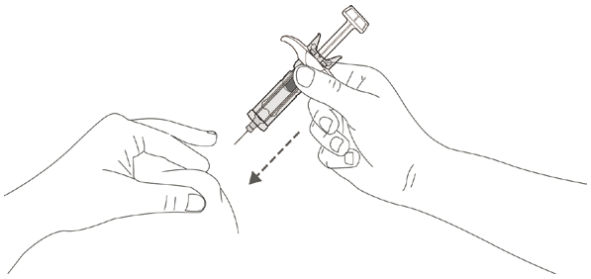
Step 3: Insert the Needle

- Lightly pinch the skin at the injection site with one hand;
- With the other hand insert the needle into the injection site without touching the plunger rod head (with 45-90 degree angle) (see picture 6 and 7).

Picture 6



Picture 7



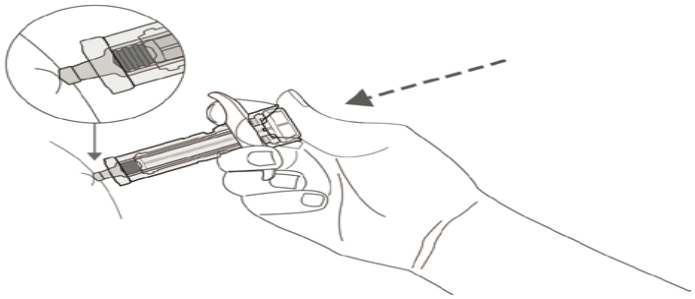
Pre-filled syringe with needle safety guard

- Put the needle fully into the skin as shown by your nurse or doctor.
- Pull slightly on the plunger to check that a blood vessel has not been punctured. If you see blood in the syringe, remove the needle and re-insert it in another place.
- Inject the dose your doctor has told you following the instructions below:

Step-4: Injection

Place the thumb on the plunger rod head. Depress the plunger rod and **push firmly** at the end of the injection to ensure that syringe emptying is completed (see picture 8). Hold the skin securely until the injection is completed.

Picture 8

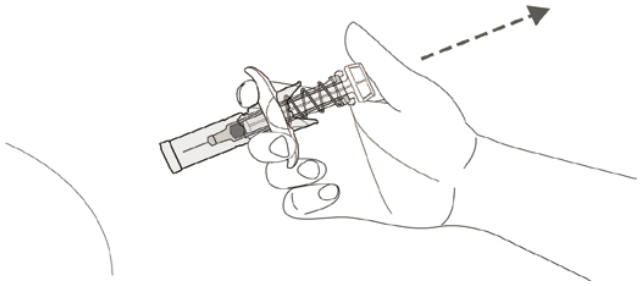


Step-5: Needle Stick Protection

The safety system will activate once the plunger rod is fully depressed:

- Keep the syringe still and slowly lift your thumb from the plunger rod head;
- The plunger rod will move up with your thumb and the spring retracts the needle from the site, into the Needle safety guard (see picture 9).

Picture 9



Remember
If you have any problems, please ask your doctor or nurse for help and advice.

Disposing of used syringes

Dispose of the syringe as instructed by your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

If you use more Pelgraz than you should

If you use more Pelgraz than you should contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

If you forget to inject Pelgraz

If you are injecting yourself and have forgotten your dose of Pelgraz, you should contact your doctor to discuss when you should inject the next dose.

If you stop using Pelgraz

Your doctor will tell you when to stop using Pelgraz. It is quite normal to have a number of courses of treatment with Pelgraz.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Please tell your doctor immediately if you have any of the following or combination of the following side effects:
- swelling or puffiness, which may be associated with passing water less frequently, difficulty breathing, abdominal swelling and feeling of fullness, and a general feeling of tiredness. These symptoms generally develop in a rapid fashion.

These could be symptoms of an uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people) condition called "Capillary Leak Syndrome" which causes blood to leak from the small blood vessels into your body and needs urgent medical attention.

Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):
- bone pain. Your doctor will tell you what you can take to ease the bone pain.
- nausea and headaches.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):
- pain at the site of injection.

- general aches and pains in the joints and muscles.
- pain in the chest that is not caused by heart disease or a heart attack.
- some changes may occur in your blood, but these will be detected by routine blood tests. Your white blood cell count may become high for a short period of time. Your platelet count may become low which might result in bruising.

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):
- allergic-type reactions, including redness and flushing, skin rash, and raised areas of the skin that itch.
- serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis (weakness, drop in blood pressure, difficulty breathing, swelling of the face).
- increased spleen size.
- spleen rupture. Some cases of splenic rupture were fatal. It is important that you contact your doctor immediately if you experience pain in the upper left side of the abdomen or left shoulder pain since this may relate to a problem with your spleen.
- breathing problems. If you have a cough, fever and difficulty breathing please tell your doctor.
- Sweet's syndrome (plum-coloured, raised, painful lesions on the limbs and sometimes the face and neck with fever) has occurred but other factors may play a role.
- cutaneous vasculitis (inflammation of the blood vessels in the skin).
- damage to the tiny filters inside your kidneys (glomerulonephritis).
- redness at the site of injection.
- abnormal blood test results (lactate dehydrogenase, uric acid and alkaline phosphatase).
- abnormal blood test results related to the liver (alanine aminotransferase and aspartate aminotransferase).
- coughing up blood (haemoptysis)
- blood disorders (myelodysplastic syndrome [MDS] or acute myeloid leukaemia [AML]).

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):
- inflammation of the aorta (the large blood vessel which transports blood from the heart to the body), see section 2.
- bleeding from the lung (pulmonary haemorrhage)
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome, which can appear as reddish target-like or circular patches often with central blisters on the trunk, skin peeling, ulcers of mouth, throat, nose, genitals and eyes and can be preceded by fever and flu-like symptoms. Stop using Pelgraz if you develop these symptoms and contact your doctor or seek medical attention immediately. See also section 2.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Pelgraz

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and on the syringe label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C – 8 °C).

Pelgraz may be exposed to room temperature (not above 25 °C ± 2 °C) for a maximum single period of up to 15 days. Pelgraz left at room temperature for more than 15 days should be discarded. For all questions about storage, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Do not freeze. Accidental exposure to freezing temperatures for a single period of less than 24 hours does not adversely affect the stability of Pelgraz.

Keep the pre-filled syringe in the carton in order to protect from light.

Do not use this medicine if you notice it is cloudy or there are particles in it.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Pelgraz contains

- The active substance is pegfilgrastim. Each pre-filled syringe contains 6 mg of pegfilgrastim in 0.6 mL of solution.
- The other ingredients are sodium acetate, sorbitol (E420), polysorbate 20 and water for injections (see section 2).

What Pelgraz looks like and contents of the pack

Pelgraz is a clear colourless solution for injection in a pre-filled syringe with an injection needle. Each pre-filled syringe contains 0.6 mL of solution.

Pelgraz is available in packs containing 1 pre-filled syringe, with prefixed needle safety guard in individual blister pack and one alcohol swab.

Marketing Authorisation Holder
Accord Healthcare S.L.U.
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Edifici Est 6ª planta,
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Manufacturer
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ul. Lutomierska 50,95-200 Pabianice, Poland

Accord Healthcare Single Member S.A.,
64th Km National Road Athens Lamia,
Schimatari, 32009, Greece

For any information about this medicine, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder.

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This leaflet was last revised in

Other sources of information

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency web site: http://www.ema.europa.eu

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The following information is intended for medical or healthcare professionals only:

Pelgraz does not contain any preservative. In view of the possible risk of microbial contamination, Pelgraz syringes are for single use only.

Do not freeze. Accidental exposure to freezing temperatures for up to 24 hours does not affect the stability of Pelgraz. If exposure has been greater than 24 hours or frozen more than once, then Pelgraz should NOT be used.

In order to improve traceability of granulocyte-colony stimulating factors, the medicine name (Pelgraz) and batch number of the administered syringe should be clearly recorded in the patient file.

Using the pre-filled syringe with needle safety guard

The needle safety guard covers the needle after injection to prevent needle stick injury. This does not affect normal operation of the syringe. Depress the plunger rod and **push firmly** at the end of the injection to ensure that syringe emptying is completed. Hold the skin securely until the injection is completed. Keep the syringe still and slowly lift your thumb from the plunger rod head. The plunger rod will move up with your thumb and the spring retracts the needle from the site, into the Needle safety guard.
Do not use a pre-filled syringe if it has been dropped on a hard surface.

Disposal

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Pelgraz 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled injector
pegfilgrastim

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

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6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Pelgraz is and what it is used for

Pelgraz contains the active substance pegfilgrastim. Pegfilgrastim is a protein produced by biotechnology in bacteria called *E. coli*. It belongs to a group of proteins called cytokines, and is very similar to a natural protein (granulocyte-colony stimulating factor) produced by your own body.

Pelgraz is used to reduce the duration of neutropenia (low white blood cell count) and the occurrence of febrile neutropenia (low white blood cell count with a fever) which can be caused by the use of cytotoxic chemotherapy (medicines that destroy rapidly growing cells). White blood cells are important as they help your body fight infection. These cells are very sensitive to the effects of chemotherapy which can cause the number of these cells in your body to decrease. If white blood cells fall to a low level there may not be enough left in the body to fight bacteria and you may have an increased risk of infection.

Your doctor has given you Pelgraz to encourage your bone marrow (part of the bone which makes blood cells) to produce more white blood cells that help your body fight infection.

2. What you need to know before you use Pelgraz

Do not use Pelgraz

- if you are allergic to pegfilgrastim, filgrastim, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before using Pelgraz if you:

- experience an allergic reaction including weakness, drop in blood pressure, difficulty breathing, swelling of the face (anaphylaxis), redness and flushing, skin rash and areas of the skin that itch.

- have an allergy to latex. The needle cap on the pre-filled syringe contains a derivative of latex and may cause severe allergic reactions.
- experience a cough, fever and difficulty breathing. This can be a sign of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).
- have any of the following or combination of the following side effects:
  - swelling or puffiness, which may be associated with passing water less frequently, difficulty breathing, abdominal swelling and feeling of fullness, and a general feeling of tiredness.

  These could be symptoms of condition called "Capillary Leak Syndrome" which causes blood to leak from the small blood vessels into your body. See section 4.
- get left upper abdominal pain or pain at the tip of your shoulder. This may be a sign of a problem with your spleen (splenomegaly).
- have recently had a serious lung infection (pneumonia), fluid in the lungs (pulmonary oedema), inflammation of the lungs (interstitial lung disease) or an abnormal chest x-ray (lung infiltration).
- are aware of any altered blood cell counts (e.g. increase in white blood cells or anaemia) or decreased blood platelet counts, which reduces the ability of your blood to clot (thrombocytopenia). Your doctor may want to monitor you more closely.
- have sickle cell anaemia. Your doctor may monitor your condition more closely.
- are a patient with breast cancer or lung cancer, Pelgraz in combination with chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy may increase your risk of a precancerous blood condition called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) or a blood cancer called acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). Symptoms may include tiredness, fever, and easy bruising or bleeding.
- have sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing these could be signs of a severe allergic reaction.
- have symptoms of inflammation of the aorta (the large blood vessel which transports blood from the heart to the body) has been reported rarely in cancer patients and healthy donors. The symptoms can include fever, abdominal pain, malaise, back pain and increased inflammatory markers (e.g. C-reactive protein and white blood cell count). Tell your doctor if you experience these symptoms.

Your doctor will check your blood and urine regularly as Pelgraz can harm the tiny filters inside your kidneys (glomerulonephritis).

Severe skin reactions (Stevens-Johnson syndrome) have been reported with the use of Pelgraz . Stop using Pelgraz and seek medical attention immediately if you notice any of the symptoms described in section 4.

You should talk to your doctor about your risks of developing cancers of the blood. If you develop or are likely to develop cancers of the blood, you should not use Pelgraz, unless instructed by your doctor.

Loss of response to pegfilgrastim

If you experience a loss of response or failure to maintain a response with pegfilgrastim treatment, your doctor will investigate the reasons why including whether you have developed antibodies which neutralise pegfilgrastim's activity.

Children and adolescents

The safety and efficacy of Pelgraz in children has not yet been established. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Other medicines and Pelgraz

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine. Pelgraz has not been tested in pregnant women. It is important to tell your doctor if you:

- are pregnant;
- think you may be pregnant; or
- are planning to have a baby.

If you become pregnant during Pelgraz treatment, please inform your doctor.

Unless your doctor directs you otherwise, you must stop breast-feeding if you use Pelgraz.

Driving and using machines

Pelgraz has no or negligible effect on the ability to drive or use machines.

Pelgraz contains sorbitol (E420) and sodium

This medicine contains 30 mg sorbitol in each pre-filled injector which is equivalent to 50 mg/mL. This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per 6 mg dose, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'

3. How to use Pelgraz

Pelgraz is for use in adults aged 18 and over.

Always take Pelgraz exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure. The usual dose is one 6 mg subcutaneous injection (injection under your skin) using a pre-filled injector and it should be given at least 24 hours after your last dose of chemotherapy at the end of each chemotherapy cycle.

Do not shake Pelgraz vigorously as this may affect its activity.

Injecting Pelgraz yourself

Your doctor may decide that it would be more convenient for you to inject Pelgraz yourself. Your doctor or nurse will show you how to inject yourself. Do not try to inject yourself unless you have received special training from your doctor or nurse.

The instructions how to inject yourself
are given below, but proper treatment of your disease requires close and constant co-operation with your doctor.

If you are not sure about giving yourself the injection or you have any questions, please ask your doctor or nurse for help.

How do I inject Pelgraz myself?

You will need to give yourself the injection into the tissue just under the skin. This is known as a subcutaneous injection.

Equipment that you need

To give yourself a subcutaneous injection you will need:
- a pre-filled injector of Pelgraz;
- alcohol swab.

What should I do before I give myself a subcutaneous injection of Pelgraz?

1. Take the pre-filled injector out of the refrigerator.
2. Check the expiry date on the pre-filled injector label (EXP). Do not use it if the date has passed the last day of the month shown or if it has been kept outside of the refrigerator for more than 15 days or has otherwise expired.
3. Check the appearance of Pelgraz. It must be a clear and colourless liquid. If there are particles in it, you must not use it.
4. For a more comfortable injection, let the pre-filled injector stand for 30 minutes to reach room temperature or hold the pre-filled injector gently in your hand for a few minutes. Do not warm Pelgraz in any other way (for example, do not warm it in a microwave or in hot water).
5. **Wash your hands thoroughly.**
6. Find a comfortable, well-lit place and put everything you need where you can reach them (the pre-filled injector and alcohol swab).

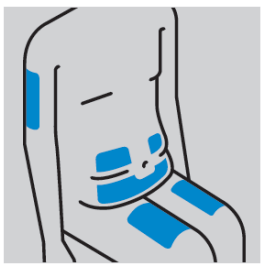
How do I prepare my Pelgraz injection?

Before you inject Pelgraz you must do the following:

- Choose a clean, well-lit space to administer your treatment.
- Check expiration date on package. Do not use if expiry date has passed.
- Gather an alcohol swab and a sharps container

Preparation

- Wash hands with soap under warm running water.

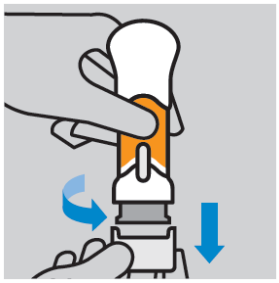


- Choose injection site (Abdomen or thigh if a patient is injecting himself/herself, with the additional option of the back of the arm if a Healthcare Provider or caregiver is assisting them)

- Clean injection site: use an alcohol swab to wipe site clean. Allow to air dry.

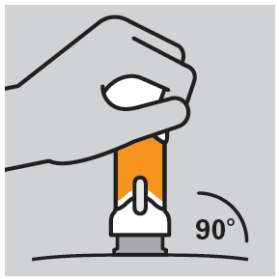
1. Pre-Injection

- Inspect liquid in window. Check for any changes in colour, cloudiness or large particles.

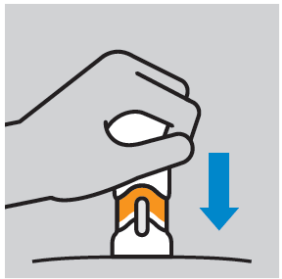


- Remove bottom cap: Twist and pull bottom cap to remove. Keep hands away from needle guard after cap is removed. Do not recap. Dispose of bottom cap immediately. Do not inject if you drop the pre-filled injector after removing cap.
- Inject within 5 minutes of removing bottom cap.

2. Injection

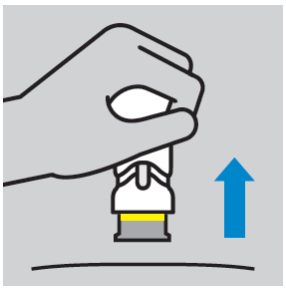


- Place the injector straight onto your skin (about 90 degrees).



- Push the handle straight down: The medicine will be injected as you push. Do this at a speed that is comfortable for you.
- Do not lift the injector during injection.

- Injection is completed when the handle has been pushed down as far as possible, you hear a click and the orange body is no longer visible.



- Lift straight up: The yellow band indicates that the needle guard is locked.

3. Disposal

- Dispose of the used Pelgraz pre-filled injector: Place injector in an approved sharps container. Regulations vary by region. Check with your doctor or pharmacist for proper disposal instructions. Do not dispose of injector in household trash.

Remember
If you have any problems, please ask your doctor or nurse for help and advice.

If you use more Pelgraz than you should

If you use more Pelgraz than you should contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

If you forget to inject Pelgraz

If you are injecting yourself and have forgotten your dose of Pelgraz, you should contact your doctor to discuss when you should inject the next dose.

If you stop using Pelgraz

Your doctor will tell you when to stop using Pelgraz. It is quite normal to have a number of courses of treatment with Pelgraz.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Please tell your doctor immediately if you have any of the following or combination of the following side effects:

- swelling or puffiness, which may be associated with passing water less frequently, difficulty breathing, abdominal swelling and feeling of fullness, and a general feeling of tiredness. These symptoms generally develop in a rapid fashion.

These could be symptoms of an uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people) condition called "Capillary Leak Syndrome" which causes blood to leak from the small blood vessels into your body and needs urgent medical attention.

Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- bone pain. Your doctor will tell you what you can take to ease the bone pain.
- nausea and headaches.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- pain at the site of injection.
- general aches and pains in the joints and muscles.
- pain in the chest that is not caused by heart disease or a heart attack.
- some changes may occur in your blood, but these will be detected by routine blood tests. Your white blood cell count may become high for a short period of time. Your platelet count may become low which might result in bruising.

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- allergic-type reactions, including redness and flushing, skin rash, and raised areas of the skin that itch.
- serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis (weakness, drop in blood pressure, difficulty breathing, swelling of the face).
- increased spleen size.
- spleen rupture. Some cases of splenic rupture were fatal. It is important that you contact your doctor immediately if you experience pain in the upper left side of the abdomen or left shoulder pain since this may relate to a problem with your spleen.
- breathing problems. If you have a cough, fever and difficulty breathing please tell your doctor.
- Sweet's syndrome (plum-coloured, raised, painful lesions on the limbs and sometimes the face and neck with fever) has occurred but other factors may play a role.
- cutaneous vasculitis (inflammation of the blood vessels in the skin).
- damage to the tiny filters inside your kidneys (glomerulonephritis).
- redness at the site of injection.
- abnormal blood test results (lactate dehydrogenase, uric acid and alkaline phosphatase).
- abnormal blood test results related to the liver (alanine aminotransferase and aspartate aminotransferase).
- coughing up blood (haemoptysis)
- blood disorders (myelodysplastic syndrome [MDS] or acute myeloid leukaemia [AML]).

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- inflammation of the aorta (the large blood vessel which transports blood from the heart to the body), see section 2.
- bleeding from the lung (pulmonary haemorrhage)
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome, which can appear as reddish target-like or circular patches often with central blisters on the trunk, skin peeling, ulcers of mouth, throat, nose, genitals and eyes and can be preceded by fever and flu-like symptoms. Stop using Pelgraz if you develop these symptoms and contact your doctor or seek medical attention immediately. See also section 2.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Pelgraz

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and on the pre-filled injector label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C – 8 °C).

Pelgraz may be exposed to room temperature (not above 25 °C ± 2 °C) for a maximum single period of up to 15 days. Pelgraz left at room temperature for more than 15 days should be discarded. For all questions about storage, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Do not freeze. Accidental exposure to freezing temperatures for a single period of less than 24 hours does not adversely affect the stability of Pelgraz.

Keep the pre-filled injector in the carton in order to protect from light.

Do not use this medicine if you notice it is cloudy or there are particles in it.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Pelgraz contains

- The active substance is pegfilgrastim. Each pre-filled injector contains 6 mg of pegfilgrastim in 0.6 mL of solution.
- The other ingredients are sodium acetate, sorbitol (E420), polysorbate 20 and water for injections (see section 2).

What Pelgraz looks like and contents of the pack

Pelgraz is a clear colourless solution for injection in a pre-filled injector with an injection needle. Each pre-filled injector contains 0.6 mL of solution.

Pelgraz is available in a pack containing 1 pre-filled injector in a monocarton and one alcohol swab.

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For any information about this medicine, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder.

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This leaflet was last revised in

Other sources of information

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency web site: http://www.ema.europa.eu

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The following information is intended for medical or healthcare professionals only:

Pelgraz does not contain any preservative. In view of the possible risk of microbial contamination, Pelgraz in pre-filled injector are for single use only.

Do not freeze. Accidental exposure to freezing temperatures for up to 24 hours does not affect the stability of Pelgraz. If exposure has been greater than 24 hours or frozen more than once, then Pelgraz should NOT be used.

In order to improve traceability of granulocyte-colony stimulating factors, the medicine name (Pelgraz) and batch number of the administered pre-filled injector should be clearly recorded in the patient file.

Disposal
Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.