



Gliolan[®]

5-aminolevulinic acid

seeing is the beginning



All about Gliolan[®]

A patient guide

This leaflet will help to explain what Gliolan® is and how it will be used during your treatment.

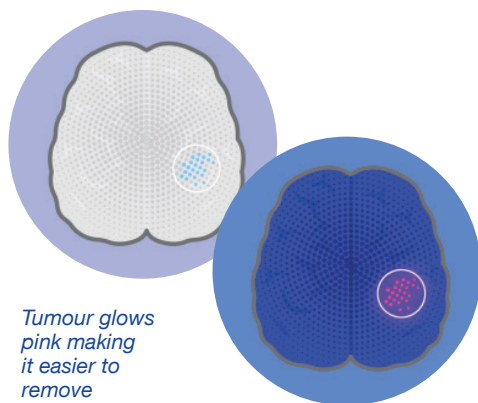
What is Gliolan®?

Gliolan®, often called the pink drink or 5-ALA, is a valuable surgical aid for adults who are undergoing neurosurgery for high grade malignant gliomas, or glioblastomas, the most common type of primary brain tumour. Taken as a drink, Gliolan® makes the tumour glow pink, allowing specially trained neurosurgeons to see, and remove, more of the brain tumour during surgery.



neurosurgeon to see where the edges of the tumour are so that it is easier to remove and there is less chance of leaving parts of the tumour behind.

As a result, there is less risk of damage to healthy brain tissue and the overall effect is improved quality of life with more days feeling well.



Tumour glows pink making it easier to remove

How is Gliolan® taken?

Gliolan® is a powder which is mixed with normal drinking water to give a clear liquid. This is taken around three hours before anaesthesia and surgery. This gives it time to be absorbed into the bloodstream and then into the tumour cells.

What are the benefits of taking Gliolan®?

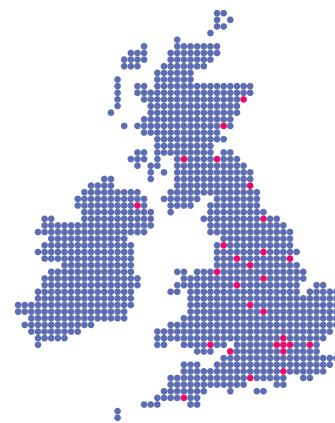
When Gliolan® reaches the brain, it is absorbed into the tumour cells which, when viewed under an ultraviolet light, glow bright pink whilst the rest of the normal healthy brain tissue shows blue. This technique is useful as it allows the

Is Gliolan® given to every brain tumour patient?

There are some types of brain tumour that aren't suitable but the most common type of tumours, glioblastomas, are. Your neurosurgeon will advise you.

Will I be given Gliolan® if I need it?

Gliolan® should be available to patients in every neurosurgical centre in the UK and therefore you will be given Gliolan® if you could benefit from it.



What happens if my surgery is delayed?

If your anaesthesia and surgery is delayed after you have been given Gliolan®, you will not need an additional dose if the operation takes place later the same day. However, if your surgery is delayed by one or more days, you can be given another dose of Gliolan®.



Are there any side effects from taking Gliolan®?

All medicines can cause side effects, although not everyone will experience them. The most common side effect is that your skin and eyes will be sensitive to sunlight and very bright artificial light for 24 hours after taking it. This means that direct sunlight should be avoided but the normal light on the surgical ward is acceptable.

Can Gliolan® be given to someone who is pregnant or breastfeeding?

It is not known whether Gliolan® can harm an unborn baby so it would not be used during pregnancy. Breastfeeding should be avoided for 24 hours after taking Gliolan® as it is not known whether it enters breast milk.



For more information on Gliolan®, you can speak to your nurse or neurosurgeon.

Useful links

The Brain Tumour Charity

www.thebraintumourcharity.org

Brain Tumour Support

www.braintumoursupport.co.uk

Brains Trust

www.brainstrust.org.uk

Brain Tumour Research

www.braintumourresearch.org

Macmillan Cancer Support

www.macmillan.org.uk

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 the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in Google Play or Apple App store. Please also report side effects directly to photonamic at photonamic-PhV@spm2-safety.com.

By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Please read the Patient Information Leaflet contained within the carton for further details.

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