

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

POLICY: Gaucher Disease – Enzyme Replacement Therapy – Cerezyme Prior Authorization Policy

- Cerezyme® (imiglucerase intravenous infusion – Genzyme)

REVIEW DATE: 03/16/2022

OVERVIEW

Cerezyme, an analogue of β -glucocerebrosidase, is indicated for the long-term enzyme replacement therapy for patients with a confirmed diagnosis of **Type 1 Gaucher disease** that results in at least one of the following: anemia, thrombocytopenia, bone disease, hepatomegaly, or splenomegaly.¹

Cerezyme is produced via recombinant DNA technology in Chinese hamster ovary cells and differs from human placental glucocerebrosidase by one amino acid at position 495.¹ Cerezyme catalyzes the breakdown of glucocerebroside to glucose and ceramide.

Disease Overview

Gaucher disease is a rare autosomal recessive, inherited, lysosomal storage disorder caused by a deficiency of the lysosomal enzyme β -glucocerebrosidase.²⁻⁴ Glucocerebrosidase is responsible for the breakdown of glucosylcerebroside (GluCer) into glucose and ceramide. A deficiency of this enzyme is characterized by an excessive accumulation of GluCer in the visceral organs such as the liver, spleen, and bone marrow. GluCer remains stored within lysosomes causing enlarged lipid-laden macrophages called “Gaucher cells”.

Gaucher disease is classified into three phenotypes (Types 1 through 3).²⁻⁵ Type 1 is a non-neuropathic variant with asymptomatic or symptomatic clinical manifestations of splenomegaly, hepatomegaly, anemia, thrombocytopenia, skeletal complications, and occasional lung involvement. Type 2 is an acute neuropathic form characterized by an early onset (3 to 6 months of age) of rapidly progressive neurological disease with visceral manifestations; death generally occurs by the time patients reach 1 to 2 years of age. Type 3 is characterized by neurological symptoms and visceral symptoms with a later onset and includes abnormal eye movements, ataxia, seizures, and dementia. Type 1 is most prevalent in the Western world, accounting for an estimated 94% of patients with Gaucher disease.^{2,6} Types 2 and 3 represent < 1% and 5%, respectively, in Europe, North America, and Israel.^{2,5} The diagnosis of Gaucher disease is established by demonstrating deficient β -glucocerebrosidase activity in leukocytes or fibroblasts, or mutations in the glucocerebrosidase gene.^{7,8}

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Cerezyme. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Cerezyme as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval requires Cerezyme to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Cerezyme is recommended in those who meet the following criteria:

03/16/2022

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FDA-Approved Indication

1. **Gaucher Disease.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A, B, and C):
 - A) Patient has Type 1 Gaucher disease; AND
 - B) The diagnosis is established by one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Demonstration of deficient β -glucocerebrosidase activity in leukocytes or fibroblasts; OR
 - ii. Molecular genetic testing documenting glucocerebrosidase gene mutation; AND
 - C) Cerezyme is prescribed by or in consultation with a geneticist, endocrinologist, a metabolic disorder sub-specialist, or a physician who specializes in the treatment of lysosomal storage disorders.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Cerezyme is not recommended in the following situations:

1. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

REFERENCES

1. Cerezyme® intravenous infusion [prescribing information]. Cambridge, MA: Genzyme; January 2022.
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5. Grabowski GA. Lysosomal storage disease 1- phenotype, diagnosis, and treatment of Gaucher’s disease. *Lancet.* 2008;372:1263-1271.
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7. Stirnemann J, Belmatoug N, Camou F, et al. A review of Gaucher disease pathophysiology, clinical presentation and treatments. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2017;18:441.
8. Baris HN, Cohen JJ, Mistry PK. Gaucher disease: The metabolic defect, pathophysiology, phenotypes and natural . *Pediatr Endocrinol Rev.* 2014;12:72-81.