

## Ferriprox (deferiprone) Tablets and Oral Solution Clinical Update

Clinical Update: FDA approved Ferriprox (deferiprone) tablets for twice-a-day.  
FDA approval date: May 19, 2020

Ferriprox (deferiprone) is an iron chelator indicated for the treatment of patients with transfusional iron overload due to thalassemia syndromes when current chelation therapy is inadequate.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Ferriprox (deferiprone) twice-a-day tablets for the treatment of patients with transfusional iron overload due to thalassemia syndromes when current chelation therapy is inadequate. The new formulation of twice-a-day Ferriprox 1000 mg oral tablets eliminates the mid-day dose. Approval is based on a reduction in serum ferritin levels. There are no controlled trials demonstrating a direct treatment benefit, such as improvement in disease-related symptoms, functioning, or increased survival. Safety and effectiveness have not been established for the treatment of transfusional iron overload in patients with other chronic anemias. Be aware of the below warnings for Ferriprox:

- It can cause agranulocytosis that can lead to serious infections and death. Neutropenia may precede the development of agranulocytosis.
- Measure the absolute neutrophil count (ANC) before starting Ferriprox and monitor weekly while on therapy.
- Interrupt Ferriprox if infection develops and monitor the ANC more frequently.
- Advise patients taking Ferriprox to report immediately any symptoms indicative of infection.
- Ferriprox DR can cause fetal harm. Advise females of reproductive potential to use an effective method of contraception during treatment with Ferriprox and for at least six months after the last dose.
- It is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to deferiprone or to any of the excipients in the formulation.

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