

## What Is EXPAREL<sup>®</sup> (bupivacaine liposome injectable suspension)?

EXPAREL is an innovative, non-opioid analgesic that provides long-lasting postsurgical pain relief with decreased opioid consumption when used as part of a multimodal treatment regimen.\* Multimodal therapy aims to reduce opioid use by using a combination of drug therapies that act on different parts of the body.<sup>1</sup> Multimodal therapy is advocated by leading healthcare organizations such as the American Pain Society, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.<sup>1-3</sup>

Developed by Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: PCRX), EXPAREL was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in October 2011 for administration into the surgical site to produce postsurgical analgesia. The product became commercially available in April 2012.<sup>4</sup>

EXPAREL utilizes DepoFoam<sup>®</sup> technology to slowly release the local anesthetic bupivacaine over time to extend the pharmacologic effect of EXPAREL.<sup>5</sup> Local anesthetics provide pain relief by numbing the tissue around the surgical site (ie, the tissue wounded by the surgical incision) and are not narcotics.

## What Can Clinicians and Patients Expect With EXPAREL?

When used as part of a multimodal treatment regimen, clinicians and patients can expect to see long-lasting pain relief with a decrease in opioid consumption\* following a single injection of EXPAREL. There are no catheters, pumps, or other devices needed to deliver EXPAREL.

## Where Does EXPAREL Fit in the Management of Postsurgical Pain?

As clinicians increase their focus on reducing opioid use and consumption, a single dose of EXPAREL can provide prolonged analgesia, making it a potentially suitable choice for patients who need effective pain management in the first few days after surgery, when pain is often at its worst.<sup>6</sup>

The ability to control pain with a single intraoperative injection of EXPAREL could potentially decrease the amount of opioid medication\* needed to treat breakthrough pain during the recovery process.

\*The clinical benefit of the decrease in opioid consumption was not demonstrated in the pivotal trials.

EXPAREL is indicated for administration into the surgical site to produce postsurgical analgesia.

### Important Safety Information

EXPAREL is contraindicated in obstetrical paracervical block anesthesia. In clinical trials, the most common adverse reactions (incidence  $\geq 10\%$ ) following EXPAREL administration were nausea, constipation, and vomiting. EXPAREL is not recommended to be used in the following patient population: patients <18 years old and/or pregnant patients. Because amide-type local anesthetics, such as bupivacaine, are metabolized by the liver, EXPAREL should be used cautiously in patients with hepatic disease. Patients with severe hepatic disease, because of their inability to metabolize local anesthetics normally, are at a greater risk of developing toxic plasma concentrations.

### Warnings and Precautions Specific to EXPAREL

EXPAREL is not recommended for the following types or routes of administration: epidural, intrathecal, regional nerve blocks, or intravascular or intra-articular use. Non-bupivacaine-based local anesthetics, including lidocaine, may cause an immediate release of bupivacaine from EXPAREL if administered together locally. The administration of EXPAREL may follow the administration of lidocaine after a delay of 20 minutes or more. Formulations of bupivacaine other than EXPAREL should not be administered within 96 hours following administration of EXPAREL.

### Warnings and Precautions for Bupivacaine-Containing Products

**Central Nervous System (CNS) Reactions:** There have been reports of adverse neurologic reactions with the use of local anesthetics. These include persistent anesthesia and paresthesias. CNS reactions are characterized by excitation and/or depression. **Cardiovascular System Reactions:** Toxic blood concentrations depress cardiac conductivity and excitability which may lead to dysrhythmias sometimes leading to death. **Allergic Reactions:** Allergic-type reactions (eg, anaphylaxis and angioedema) are rare and may occur as a result of hypersensitivity to the local anesthetic or to other formulation ingredients. **Chondrolysis:** There have been reports of chondrolysis (mostly in the shoulder joint) following intra-articular infusion of local anesthetics, which is an unapproved use.

For more information or to access the full Prescribing Information for EXPAREL, please visit [www.EXPAREL.com](http://www.EXPAREL.com) or call 1-855-RX-EXPAREL (793-9727).

**References:** 1. American Pain Society publishes clinical practice guideline for post-surgical pain management [news release]. American Pain Society; February 17, 2016. <http://americanpainsociety.org/about-us/press-room/american-pain-society-publishes-clinical-practice-guideline-for-post-surgical-pain-management>. Accessed July 18, 2017. 2. American Society of Anesthesiologists. Practice guidelines for acute pain management in the perioperative setting: an updated report by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Acute Pain Management. *Anesthesiology*. 2012;116(2):248-273. doi:10.1097/ALN.0b013e31823c1030. 3. Dowell D, Haegerich TM, Chou R. CDC guideline for prescribing opioids for chronic pain—United States, 2016 [published correction appears in *MMWR Recomm Rep*. 2016;65(11):295]. *MMWR Recomm Rep*. 2016;65(1):1-49. doi:10.15585/mmwr.r6501e1. 4. Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announces commercial availability of EXPAREL<sup>®</sup> [news release]. Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; April 9, 2012. <http://investor.pacira.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=220759&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1680934>. Accessed July 18, 2017. 5. How DepoFoam<sup>®</sup> works. Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc. website. <http://www.pacira.com/depof foam-platform/how-it-works.php>. Accessed July 18, 2017. 6. Beauregard L, Pomp A, Choiniere M. Severity and impact of pain after day-surgery. *Can J Anaesth*. 1998;45(4):304-311.

