

Formulary information for UK Healthcare Practitioners only

Prescribing information and safety reporting information is available at the end of this document

Drug name:



Therapeutic indications:

Zeyzelf® (rivastigmine) twice weekly transdermal patch is indicated for the symptomatic treatment of mild to moderately severe Alzheimer's dementia.¹

Mode of action:

Zeyzelf® is a dual inhibitor of both acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and butyrylcholinesterase (BuChE).

Product description:

Zeyzelf® is a translucent polymer matrix patch designed to allow release of rivastigmine for up to 4 days, including an adhesive cover to optimise adhesion.¹

The transdermal patch is a thin, matrix-type transdermal patch of a rectangular shape. The outside of the backing layer is translucent. Each patch is printed in blue with RID-TDS 4.6 mg/24 h, or RID-TDS 9.5 mg/24h.

Rivastigmine is the only acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitor that is available in a transdermal patch formulation and Zeyzelf® is the only transdermal patch available which is applied twice a week (on fixed days), instead of daily application.

Additionally, Zeyzelf® comes with a unique adhesive cover which is applied on top of the active patch, the benefits of which are to optimise adhesion and which can be written on, so caregivers can record details, such as the date and time of application and/or for the patch change.



Dose:

Zeyzelf® is available in two strengths. 4.6 mg/24h is the starting strength and if this is well tolerated for at least 4 weeks should be titrated to the recommended, daily effective dose of 9.5mg/24hr.

Cost:

Zeyzelf® is competitively priced and is more than 50% less expensive than the originator single day patch, Exelon. List price costs of other available single day rivastigmine patches are shown below for comparison.

NHS List Prices GBP/pack				
Brand Name	Manufacturer	4.6mcg	9.5mcg	13.3mcg
Exelon 30 patches	Novartis	£77.97	£77.97	£77.97
Almuriva 30 patches	Sandoz	£77.97	£77.97	£77.97
Erastig 30 patches	Teva			£73.90
Zeyzelf 8 patches	Luye	£35.09	£35.09	n/a

This table has been compiled from data on: <https://dmd-browser.nhsbsa.nhs.uk>³ -

NICE guidance (NG97)²:

NICE guideline (NG97) states that prescribing an AChE inhibitor (donepezil, galantamine or rivastigmine) should normally be started with the drug with the lowest acquisition cost taking into account required daily dose and the price per dose once shared care has started.

However, an alternative AChE inhibitor could be prescribed if it is considered appropriate when taking into account adverse event profile, expectations about adherence, medical comorbidity, possibility of drug interactions and dosing profiles.

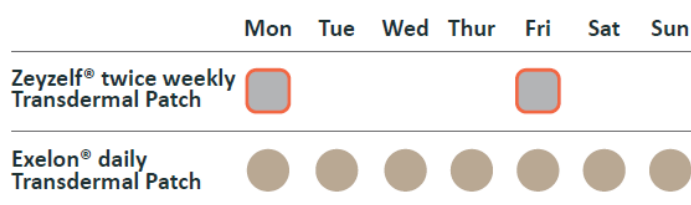
Application:

Zeyzelf® is applied twice a week on fixed days of the week at an interval of 4 and 3 days respectively. Caregivers can plan the dosing schedule to the patient's and their own convenience.

You should change the patches on **two fixed days**

Monday and Friday OR
Tuesday and Saturday OR
Wednesday and Sunday OR
Thursday and Monday OR
Friday and Tuesday OR
Saturday and Wednesday OR
Sunday and Thursday

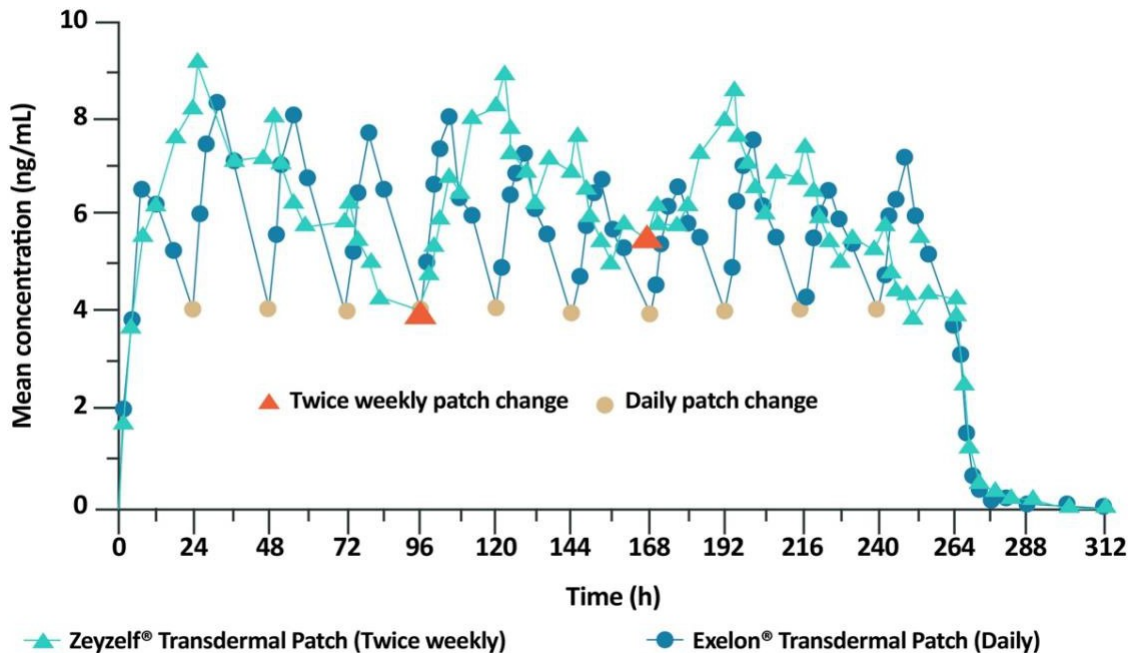
An example is shown below comparing it to daily application
Schematic representation of patch application



Bioequivalence data:

The study was a single-centre, open-label, randomized, multiple-dose trial conducted in healthy male adults using a 2-period, 2-sequence-crossover design with multiple applications. Patches were applied on 11 consecutive days for Exelon® and a 4-3-4-day regimen for the multiday test patch (RID-TDS), separated by a 14-day wash-out period.

Despite its twice weekly application, Zeyzelf® has demonstrated bioequivalence to the originator Exelon daily transdermal patch.⁴



Graph adapted from Schurad B, et al⁴

Adhesion:

In the same study as the bioequivalence study which compared the twice weekly Zeyzelf® patch and Exelon® daily patch, showed Zeyzelf® had better adhesion properties despite the longer dosing intervals, showing $\geq 90\%$ adhesion for Zeyzelf® compared to $< 70\%$ for Exelon®.

Zeyzelf® twice weekly patch 94.83%

Exelon daily patch 66.77%

Percentage of assessments showing $\geq 90\%$ adhesion⁴

The EMA Guideline defines satisfactory adhesion as $\geq 90\%$ of area that remained adhered at assessment. Assessments were done at 24 h post application of the patches.⁵

Tolerability:

Zeyzef® twice weekly transdermal patches are generally well tolerated. Application site reactions (usually mild to moderate erythema) and gastrointestinal disorders are the most frequent AEs observed with the use of Zeyzef® transdermal patches.¹

Transdermal patches offer **superior tolerability** vs orally administered rivastigmine. Data from a study comparing 9.5 mg/24 h daily patch (n=229) vs 12 mg/day oral rivastigmine (n=266).⁶

Fewer patients reported nausea (7.2% vs 23.1%) and vomiting (6.2% vs 17%) on transdermal rivastigmine patches compared with oral rivastigmine.⁶

Transdermal administration delivers reduction in certain side effects vs oral rivastigmine due to:^{6,7}

- **Avoiding the first pass effects⁷**
- **Lowered maximum plasma concentration (Cmax) and prolonged time to reach Cmax (Tmax) for the same exposure⁶**
- **Reduced fluctuations of plasma drug levels and continuous delivery^{6,7}**

Benefits of Zeyzef® in treatment of Alzheimer's dementia:

There are a number of advantages of transdermal drug delivery compared to other routes of administration, especially in people with Alzheimer's disease. For example, for those patients unable to tolerate, or unwilling to swallow oral medications.

Challenges in patient care: Dysphagia

Dysphagia is common in patients with Alzheimer's disease and transdermal patches and other non-tablet formulations are an option for such patients.

Comparative costs for these formulations are shown below where it can be seen that transdermal rivastigmine patches offer one of the least expensive options for these patients. The costs are calculated based on the usual maintenance dose for a 1 month supply.

Transdermal delivery is useful when older patients are unable to tolerate or unwilling to swallow oral medications. Dysphagia (difficulty in swallowing) is thought to affect between **84%** and **93%** of people with moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease, and in a recent study, **63.9%** and **90%** of people with mild and moderate Alzheimer's respectively experienced dysphagia, compared with 40% of cognitively intact people.⁸

Comparative costs against non-tablet formulations (see appendix 1 for a larger image of the table)

Drug Tariff Category	*ACEI Drug	Quantity	Treatment initiation dose(s) ³	Maximum recommended daily dose ²	Number of days supply ¹	Drug Tariff ⁴	Pro-rata Cost for 28 days supply ⁵	Cost for 28 days supply Zeyzef twice weekly transdermal patches ³	Potential cost savings per 28 days ^{4,6}		
C	*ACEI Drug Rivastigmine**	120ml	1.5 mg twice a day	1.5 mg twice a day	80	£85.00	£29.75	£35.09	-\$5.34		
			3 mg twice a day	3 mg twice a day	40	£85.00	£59.50	£35.09	£24.41		
			4.5 mg twice a day	4.5 mg twice a day	26.6	£85.00	£89.47	£35.09	£54.38		
			6 mg twice a day	6 mg twice a day	20	£85.00	£119.00	£35.09	£83.91		
C	*ACEI Drug Donepezil*	150ml	5mg	10mg	30	£114.07	£106.47	£35.09	£71.38		
			10mg	10mg	15	£114.07	£114.07	£35.09	£24.41		
			150ml	10mg	30	£228.14	£212.93	£35.09	£177.84		
			150ml	10mg	28	£48.96	£48.76	£35.09	£13.67		
		A ²	Donepezil 5mg orodispersible tablets sugar free	28	5mg	10mg	28	£97.92	£97.92	£35.09	£62.83
					10mg	10mg	28	£127.60	£125.39	£35.09	£90.30
					10mg	10mg	28	£127.60	£125.39	£35.09	£90.30
					10mg	10mg	28	£127.60	£125.39	£35.09	£90.30
C	*ACEI Drug Galantamine*	120ml	8 mg/day (4 mg twice a day)	8 mg/day (4 mg twice a day)	80	£85.00	£29.75	£35.09	£32.11		
			16 mg/day (8 mg twice a day)	16 mg/day (8 mg twice a day)	40	£85.00	£59.50	£35.09	£99.31		
			24 mg/day (12 mg twice a day)	24 mg/day (12 mg twice a day)	26.6	£85.00	£89.47	£35.09	£167.32		
			24 mg/day (12 mg twice a day)	24 mg/day (12 mg twice a day)	26.6	£85.00	£89.47	£35.09	£167.32		

Avoiding the first pass effects⁷:

Additionally, many elderly patients with dementia are on polypharmacy and unlike other AChE's, because rivastigmine is not metabolized through the cytochrome P450 pathway, it has been shown to have low potential for drug-to-drug interactions with commonly prescribed medications such as anti-hypertensives, calcium-channel blockers, digoxin, diabetic drugs and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.⁹

Transdermal administration delivers reduction in certain side effects vs oral rivastigmine due to it avoiding the first pass effects.^{6,7}

The integral role that caregivers often play in managing patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) is well understood with the majority of patients requiring assistance with the management and/or administration of medication. A recently published study in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease suggests that the twice weekly application of Zeyzef[®] is easier to use and preferred by caregivers and patients demonstrate greater compliance to treatment compared to single day patches.¹⁰

Real world data evaluating compliance and caregiver preference for Zeyzef[®]¹⁰

A recent study in which 92 patients participated investigating caregiver preference and compliance to treatment with twice-weekly versus daily rivastigmine patches in Alzheimer's disease who had been treated with daily rivastigmine patch for at least six months prior to switching to twice-weekly patch were evaluated found that:

- Sixty-five (70.7%) caregivers at week 12 and 87 (94.6%) caregivers at week 24 reported that the patient always took the twice-weekly patch as prescribed versus 27 (29.3%) of patients taking the daily patch.

In terms of Caregiver preference:

At 24 weeks, 83% of caregivers expressed a direct preference for the twice-weekly patch to the daily patch overall ($p < 0.001$). Likewise, more caregivers preferred the twice weekly patch to the daily patch on ease to use, ease following the schedule, and ease of adherence with treatment (all $p < 0.001$) (Figure 1).

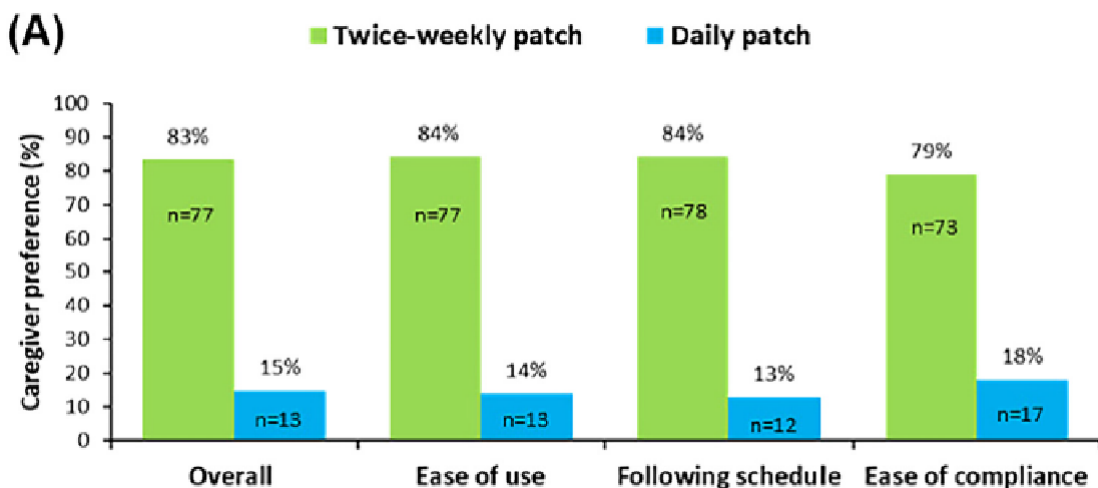


Figure 1. Caregiver preference and satisfaction and compliance with treatment. (A) Caregiver preference and reasons provided for preference for twice weekly or daily rivastigmine patch at 24 weeks (n=90). For all outcomes, $p < 0.001$, twice-weekly patch versus daily patch.¹

Efficacy:

In the same study, over 6 months of treatment with the twice weekly, Zeyzelf rivastigmine patch, approximately 50% of patients experienced overall clinical improvement based on the CGI-I score (i.e. CGI-I score ≤ 3). A total of 51 (55.5%) clinicians considered the patient's condition as very much improved to minimally improved. In the same line, 43 (46.7%) caregivers reporting the patient's condition as very much improved to minimally improved.¹⁰

Stock availability and ordering:

STRENGTHS, PACK SIZE AND INFORMATION			
Description	Strength	Pack Size	PIP Code
Zeyzelf®	4.6mg	8 patches	5401682
Zeyzelf®	9.5mg	8 patches	5401674

Zeyzelf® is available throughout the UK via the wholesaler AAH and safety stock of months supply are generally held in the UK.

References:

- [1] Zeyzelf® rivastigmine transdermal patch, Summary of Product Characteristics, Luye Pharma Ltd. January 2026
- [2] [Overview | Dementia: assessment, management and support for people living with dementia and their carers | Guidance | Nice](#)
- [3] NHSBSA Drug Tariff (England and Wales). [Last accessed January 2026]
- [4] Schurad B, et al. Current Alzheimer Research. 2022;19,541–553
- [5] EMA. Guideline on the pharmacokinetic and clinical evaluation of modified release dosage forms. Available online at: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/scientific-guideline/guideline-pharmacokinetic-and-clinical-evaluation-modified-release-dosage-forms_en.pdf [Last accessed January 2026]
- [6] Winblad B, et al. Int J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2007;69(4 Suppl 1):S14–22
- [7] Sozio P, et al. Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat. 2012;8:361–368
- [8] Guener M et al. BMC Geriatrics, 2023 May; 23(304)
- [9] Grossberg GT, et al. Int J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2000;15(3):242–247
- [10] García-Alberca JM, De La Guía P, Gris E, et al. Journal of Alzheimer's Disease. 2024;102(3)

Prescribing information and adverse event reporting for Zeyzelf® can be found by scanning the QR code



Adverse events should be reported.
Reporting forms and information can be found at: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>
Adverse events should also be reported to Luye Pharma Ltd at safety@luyepharma.co.uk

Appendix1 - Comparative costs against non-tablet formulations

Drug Tariff Category	"AChEI Drug Rivastigmine**"	Quantity	Treatment initiation dose(s ¹)	Maximum recommended daily dose ¹	Number of days supply ¹	Drug Tariff ²	Pro-rata Cost for 28 days supply ²	Cost for 28 days supply Zeyzelf twice weekly transdermal patches ³	Potential cost savings per 28 days ^{4,*}
C	Rivastigmine2mg/ml oral solution sugar free	120ml	1.5 mg twice a day		80	£85.00	£29.75	£35.09	-£5.34
C	Rivastigmine2mg/ml oral solution sugar free	120ml	3 mg twice a day		40	£85.00	£59.50	£35.09	£24.41
C	Rivastigmine2mg/ml oral solution sugar free	120ml	4.5 mg twice a day		26.6	£85.00	£89.47	£35.09	£54.38
C	Rivastigmine2mg/ml oral solutionsugar free	120ml`		6 mg twice a day	20	£85.00	£119.00	£35.09```	£83.91``

Drug Tariff Category	"AChEI Drug Donepezil*"	Quantity	Treatment initiation dose(s ¹)	Maximum recommended daily dose ¹	Number of days supply ¹	Drug Tariff ²	Pro-rata Cost for 28 days supply ²	Cost for 28 days supply Zeyzelf twice weekly transdermal patches ³	Potential cost savings per 28 days ^{4,*}
C	Donepezil1mg/ml oral solution sugar free	150ml	5mg		30	£114.07	£106.47	£35.09	£71.38
C	Donepezil1mg/ml oral solution sugar free	150ml		10mg	15	£114.07			
C	Donepezil1mg/ml oral solution sugar free	150ml		10mg	30	£228.14	£212.93	£35.09	£177.84
A ²	Donepezil5mg orodispersible tablets sugar free	28	5mg		28	£48.96	£48.76	£35.09	£13.67
A ² `	Donepezil10mg orodispersible tablets sugar free	28		10mg	28	£97.92	£97.92	£35.09	£62.83
				10mg``	28	£127.60	£125.39	£35.09	£90.30

Drug Tariff Category	"AChEI Drug Galantamine*	Quantity	Treatment initiation dose(s ¹)	Maximum recommended daily dose ¹	Number of days supply ¹	Drug Tariff ²	Pro-rata Cost for 28 days supply ²	Cost for 28 days supply Zeyzelf twice weekly transdermal patches ³	Potential cost savings per 28 days ^{4,*}
C	Galantamine20mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	120ml	8 mg/day (4 mg twice a day)		80	£85.00	£29.75	£35.09	£32.11
C	Galantamine20mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	120ml		initial maintenance dose is 16 mg/day (8 mg twice a day)	40	£85.00	£59.50	£35.09	£99.31
C	Galantamine20mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	120ml		maintenance dose of 24 mg/day (12 mg twice a day)	26.6	£85.00		£35.09	£167.32