

### **The COPAXONE® pivotal trial study design<sup>1</sup>**

For this multicenter trial, 251 people with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) at 11 US university centers were randomly selected, or randomized, to receive either COPAXONE® (125 people) or an inactive substance called placebo (126 people). This study method is known as placebo-controlled. Neither the health care providers nor the participants were aware of whether the participant was taking COPAXONE® or placebo until after the study was completed. This double-blind method ensures that the results of the study are unbiased. These study design characteristics are considered the most reliable form of scientific evidence.

The study duration for the COPAXONE® pivotal trial was 2 years. Since people in this trial started at different times (staggered enrollment), the trial lasted 35 months in order to get 2-years' worth of results for all participants. The mean (or average) time people were on treatment was 30 months.<sup>2</sup>

The primary endpoint (or goal) for the COPAXONE® pivotal trial was the reduction in the frequency of relapses. This is measured by calculating the difference between the average number of relapses in people taking COPAXONE® compared with those taking placebo over the 2-year period. This result is known as the reduction in relapse rate.

### **Extending the benefits—the COPAXONE® extension study<sup>2</sup>**

After the 2-year pivotal trial was completed, 208 of the original 251 participants continued on in an open-label extension study.<sup>3</sup> The extension study was designed to follow up on the endpoints from the original pivotal trial over the course of 15 years. This type of “forward-looking” study is called a prospective study.

### **The longest continuous, prospective study of any RRMS therapy ever!<sup>2,4</sup>**

In the extension study, everyone involved knew that the participants were taking COPAXONE®. This means that 107 people who were on placebo in the pivotal trial agreed to switch over to COPAXONE®, and 101 people already on COPAXONE® continued to take it. This study has now been going on for more than a decade and represents the longest continuous, prospective follow-up of people with RRMS ever!

While this open-label extension study is highly organized, the design of the study differs from the one used for the pivotal trial in that the extension is not double-blind, randomized, or placebo-controlled. This way, the extension study more closely mirrors the real world in which both patients and doctors know what therapy a patient is taking. Because of the necessary changes in the design of the study, the COPAXONE® extension study is not considered a “Class I” study.

Of the 208 people who were involved in the ongoing study, 108 people remained in the study and took COPAXONE® continuously for an average of 10 years. These 108 participants represent the largest group of people to be followed in this kind of study in the history of RRMS. As part of this highly organized study, they were evaluated every 6 months and seen by a doctor within 7 days of a suspected relapse. **No other RRMS therapy has been studied in this way, for this long!**

#### **References:**

1. Johnson KP, Brooks BR, Cohen JA, et al. *Neurology*. 1995;45:1268-1276.
2. Ford CC, Johnson KP, Lisak RP, et al. *Mult Scler*. 2006;12:309-320.
3. Ford C, Johnson K, Brooks B, et al. Presented at: 19th Congress of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis; September, 2003; Milan, Italy. Abstract and Poster.
4. Data on file. Teva Neuroscience, Inc.

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077005006/071245