

Impavido approved to treat tropical parasitic disease

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(HealthDay)—Impavido (miltefosine) has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat adults with leishmaniasis, a tropical disease caused by a parasite that's transmitted by the bites of sand flies.

Most Americans who contract the disease do so traveling overseas, the agency said in a news release.

The drug's safety and effectiveness were evaluated in clinical trials involving more than 700 people. Impavido's label will include a boxed warning that the medication could harm a developing fetus and shouldn't be taken by pregnant women.

Common side effects include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, loss of appetite, dizziness, [abdominal pain](#), itching, fatigue and elevated liver enzymes, the FDA said.

The drug is produced by Paladin Therapeutics, based in Montreal.

More information: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more about [leishmaniasis](#)

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