

**PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET**

**Please read this leaflet carefully before you start taking Androcur.**

Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.

If you have further questions, please ask your doctor or your pharmacist.

Androcur has been prescribed for you personally and you should not share your medicine with other people. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

**SCHEDULING STATUS****S4****PROPRIETARY NAME AND DOSAGE FORM****ANDROCUR 50 mg** Tablets**ANDROCUR 100 mg** Tablets**WHAT ANDROCUR CONTAINS**

**Androcur 50 mg** tablets contain cyproterone acetate 50 mg. The other ingredients are lactose monohydrate, maize starch, povidone 25, colloidal anhydrous silica, magnesium stearate.

**Androcur 100 mg** tablets contain cyproterone acetate 100 mg. The other ingredients are lactose monohydrate, maize starch, povidone 25, magnesium stearate.

**WHAT ANDROCUR IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR**

Androcur is a hormone preparation acting against male sex hormones. It inhibits the influence of male sex hormones (androgens, which are also produced - to a slight extent - in the female organism) at their target organs, thus counteracting androgen-dependent pathological processes.

Androcur also diminishes the testosterone concentration in the blood which has an additional therapeutic effect. An occasional tendency for the prolactin (a hormone) levels to increase slightly has been observed under higher doses of cyproterone acetate.

Androcur shields androgen-dependent target organs, e.g. the prostate, from the effect of androgens originating from the gonads and/or the adrenal cortex (a hormone producing gland attached to the kidneys).

**In women, Androcur 50 mg tablets** is used for severe signs of androgenisation, e.g. very severe hirsutism, androgen-dependent severe loss of scalp hair eventually resulting in baldness (severe androgenetic alopecia), often attended by severe forms of acne and/or seborrhoea.

**In males, Androcur 50 mg and 100 mg tablets** are used for 1) Reduction of drive in sexual deviations and 2) Antiandrogen treatment in inoperable carcinoma of the prostate.

### **DO NOT USE ANDROCUR**

Do not take Androcur if you have any of the conditions listed below. If any of these apply to you, tell your doctor before starting to take Androcur.

#### **In females**

- if you are pregnant or lactating
- if you have a liver disease
- if you had a history of jaundice or persistent itching during a previous pregnancy
- if you had a history of herpes of pregnancy
- if you suffer from hereditary disturbances of liver function with impaired excretion of the red blood cell pigment called bilirubin ("Dubin-Johnson Syndrome" or "Rotor-Syndrome")
- if you have or have had a benign or malignant liver tumour
- if you have a wasting disease (a disease causing decay or loss of strength)
- if you have a severe chronic depression
- if you have or have had a disorder affecting the blood circulation: in particular, those conditions relating to thrombosis (the formation of a blood clot) in the blood vessels (thromboembolic process)
- if you have severe diabetes mellitus with blood vessel changes
- if you have sickle-cell anaemia
- if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to cyproterone acetate or any of the other ingredients of Androcur
- If your doctor prescribes a combined oral contraceptive in combination with Androcur, attention is also drawn to the information contained in the package insert of the combined oral contraceptive

**In males**

- if you have a liver disease
- if you suffer from hereditary disturbances of liver function with impaired excretion of the red blood cell pigment called bilirubin (“Dubin-Johnson Syndrome” or “Rotor-Syndrome”)
- if you have or have had a benign or malignant liver tumour (only if these are not due to metastases from carcinoma of the prostate).
- if you have a wasting disease (a disease causing decay or loss of strength, with the exception of inoperable carcinoma of the prostate)
- if you have a severe chronic depression
- if you have or have had a disorder affecting the blood circulation: in particular, those conditions relating to thrombosis (the formation of a blood clot) in the blood vessels (thromboembolic process)
- if you have severe diabetes mellitus with blood vessel changes
- if you have sickle cell anaemia
- if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to cyproterone acetate or any of the other ingredients of Androcur.

**BEFORE YOU USE ANDROCUR****Take special care with Androcur**

- Androcur should not be given before the conclusion of puberty, since an unfavourable influence on growth and the still unstabilised hormonal regulation functions cannot be ruled out.
- During treatment your liver function, the function of a hormone producing gland (adrenocortical function) attached to the kidneys and the red blood-cell count should be checked regularly.
- In individual cases, disturbances of liver function, some of them severe (hepatitis and hepatic failure, which has been fatal in some cases), have been reported with high-dosed Androcur treatment. Most reported cases are in males with carcinoma of the prostate. The disturbances of liver function are dose-related and develop, usually, several months after treatment has begun. Therefore, your doctor should monitor your liver function before treatment and during treatment especially if there are any symptoms or signs suggestive of liver toxicity (e.g. itching all over your body, yellowing of your skin).

- As with other sex steroids, benign and malignant liver changes have been reported in isolated cases. In very rare cases, liver tumours may lead to life-threatening internal bleeding. The doctor must therefore be informed of the occurrence of unusual upper abdominal complaints which do not disappear spontaneously within a short time.
- If you suffer from diabetes, tell your doctor, since this disease requires strict supervision during treatment with Androcur.
- Occasionally, Androcur can lead to a sensation of shortness of breath.
- The occurrence of thromboembolic events has been reported in patients using Androcur, although a causal relationship has not been established. Patients with previous arterial or venous thrombotic/ thromboembolic events (e.g. deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, and myocardial infarction) or with a history of cerebrovascular accidents ("stroke") or with advanced malignancies are at increased risk of further thromboembolic events.

Specifically to be observed by women

Before starting treatment, a thorough general medical and gynaecological examination (including the breasts and a cytological smear of the cervix) should be carried out in women and pregnancy must be excluded.

If, during the combined treatment, slight "unscheduled" bleeding occurs during the 3 weeks in which the tablets are being taken, tablet-taking should not be interrupted. However, if the bleeding is heavy, you should consult your doctor.

With regard to the necessary additional use of a combined oral contraceptive preparation, attention is also drawn to all the data contained in the package insert for this preparation.

Specifically to be observed by males

In the indication "reduction of drive in sexual deviations", the drive-reducing effect of Androcur can be diminished under the disinhibitory influence of alcohol.

If you have carcinoma of the prostate inform your doctor if you have suffered in the past from a disorder affecting the blood circulation: in particular, those conditions relating to thrombosis (the formation of a blood clot) in the blood vessels (thromboembolic process) or if you suffer from sickle-cell anaemia or from severe diabetes with vascular changes because in these conditions a careful risk:benefit evaluation must be carried out in each individual case before Androcur is prescribed by your doctor.

**Driving and using machines**

Androcur can lead to tiredness and diminished vitality and can impair your ability to concentrate (e.g. important for road users, machine operators, other occupations demanding great concentration).

**Taking other medicines with Androcur**

**If you are taking other medicines on a regular basis, including complementary or traditional medicines, the use of Androcur with these medicines may cause undesirable interactions. Please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional, for advice.**

The requirement for oral antidiabetics or insulin can change.

Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, even those not prescribed. This particularly applies to medicines containing ketoconazole, itraconazole, clotrimazole, ritonavir, rifampicin, phenytoin, products containing St. John's Wort, and to products belonging to the group of statins (medicines for lowering increased blood fats, e.g., cholesterol, triglycerides).

The risk of statin-associated muscle-tissue-related side effects (so-called myopathy or rhabdomyolysis) may be increased when certain statins are co-administered with high therapeutic cyproterone acetate doses since they share the same metabolic pathway.

**PREGNANCY AND BREASTFEEDING**

**If you are pregnant or breastfeeding your baby while taking Androcur, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional for advice.**

The administration of Androcur during pregnancy and lactation is contra-indicated.

**HOW TO USE ANDROCUR**

**Do not share medicines prescribed for you with others.**

Always take Androcur exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

**Dosage in women****For severe signs of androgenisation**

Women of childbearing age

If you are pregnant, you must not take Androcur. Therefore, pregnancy must be excluded before the start of therapy.

For the duration of Androcur therapy women of child-bearing age must also receive a combined oral contraceptive. This will provide the necessary contraceptive protection and will stabilise the menstrual cycle. Dosage and directions for use as per the package insert of that product must be strictly adhered to.

Prior to commencing Androcur treatment it is always necessary for the patient to receive one complete cycle of a combined oral contraceptive.

Extra non-hormonal methods (with the exception of the rhythm and temperature methods) should be employed during the first 3 weeks of the first pack of the combined oral contraceptive. This menstrual cycle may be shorter than 4 weeks. Subsequent cycles should then be regular.

In the second pack of the combined oral contraceptive, which starts the very next day after completion of the first pack of the combined oral contraceptive, Androcur treatment is commenced on the 5th day of this menstrual cycle (1st day of bleeding = 1st day of the menstrual cycle).

2 Androcur 50 mg tablets (= 100 mg) are to be taken with some liquid after a meal from the 5th to the 14th day of the cycle (i.e. for ten days).

If you are receiving the cyclical combined therapy you should take Androcur tablets the same time each day.

Every 28 days (the usual duration of a menstrual cycle), the above dosage regimen is to be followed.

Seven inactive tablets are taken once daily after 21 days, during which time a withdrawal bleeding occurs. Exactly 4 weeks after the first course of treatment was started, i.e. on the same day of the week, the next cyclical course of combined treatment is started, regardless of whether bleeding has stopped or not.

Following clinical improvement, the daily dose of Androcur 50 mg during the first 10 days of the combined treatment with a combined oral contraceptive can be reduced to one or half a tablet of Androcur 50 mg.

Post-menopausal or hysterectomised patients

In postmenopausal or hysterectomised patients Androcur 50 mg may be administered alone. According to the severity of the complaints, the average dose should be one to half a tablet Androcur 50 mg once daily for 21 days, followed by a seven day tablet-free interval.

**Dosage in males**Reduction of drive in sexual deviations

The individual dosage will be determined by the doctor. The tablets are to be taken with some liquid after meals. Generally, treatment is started with 1 tablet Androcur 50 mg twice daily. It may be necessary to increase the dose to 2 tablets twice daily, or even 2 tablets three times daily for a short period of time. When a satisfactory result has been achieved, one should try to maintain the therapeutic effect with the lowest possible dose. Quite often ½ tablet twice daily is sufficient.

When establishing the maintenance dose or when discontinuing the preparation, one should not reduce the dosage abruptly, but gradually. To this end, the daily dose should be reduced by one 50 mg tablet, or better ½ of a 50 mg tablet, at intervals of several weeks.

To stabilise the therapeutic effect it is necessary to take Androcur over a protracted period of time, if possible with the simultaneous use of psychotherapeutic measures.

Antiandrogen treatment in inoperable carcinoma of the prostate

100 mg twice to three times daily (= 200-300 mg per day).

The tablets are to be taken with some liquid after the meals.

The treatment and dosage prescribed by the doctor should not be changed or interrupted after improvement or remissions have occurred.

To reduce the initial increase of male sex hormones in treatment with GnRH agonists:

100 mg twice daily (= 200 mg per day) alone for 5 - 7 days, followed by 100 mg twice daily (= 200 mg per day) for 3 - 4 weeks together with a GnRH agonist in the dosage recommended by the manufacturer.

To treat hot flushes in patients under treatment with GnRH analogues or who have had orchidectomy:

100 mg once to twice daily (= 100-200 mg per day).

**If you take more Androcur than you should**

Treatment is supportive and symptomatic.

**Please consult your doctor or pharmacist in the case of accidental overdose. If neither is available, rush the patient to the nearest hospital or poison control centre.**

**If you forget to take Androcur**Missed tablets in women

If you receive the cyclical combined therapy, you should keep to a particular time of the day for taking the combined oral contraceptive (together with Androcur). If you forget to take the combined oral contraceptive at the usual time, you must take it within the next 12 hours at the latest. If more than 12 hours elapse from the time that you normally take your combined oral contraceptive tablet, contraceptive protection may be reduced in this cycle. Attention is drawn to the special notes on contraceptive reliability and to the missed pill recommendations in the product information of the combined oral contraceptive. If bleeding fails to occur after this cycle, pregnancy must be excluded before tablet-taking is resumed.

Missed Androcur tablets may diminish the therapeutic efficacy and may lead to intermenstrual bleeding. The missed Androcur tablet should be disregarded (no double dose should be taken to make up for the missed tablet) and tablet taking resumed at the regular time together with a combined oral contraceptive.

#### Missed tablets in males

The missed Androcur tablet should be disregarded (no double dose should be taken to make up for the missed tablet) and tablet taking resumed at the regular time.

### **POSSIBLE SIDE-EFFECTS**

**Not all side-effects reported for Androcur are included in this leaflet. Should your general health worsen while taking Androcur, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional for advice.**

Androcur can have side-effects.

The most serious undesirable effects associated with the use of Androcur are listed in section "Take special care with Androcur".

It is very common to notice decreased libido (sexual desire), erectile dysfunction and reversible inhibition of sperm formation in men and inhibition of ovulation in women.

Common side-effects are: increased or decreased weight, depressed mood, temporary restlessness, shortness of breath, liver toxicity (including jaundice, abnormal liver function tests and toxic hepatitis), breast tenderness (in men and women), gynaecomastia (swelling of the breast gland - in men), fatigue, hot flushes (in men) and sweating (in men).

The less common side effects are: decreased libido (sexual desire) in women and a possible rash.

Rarely, you may experience conditions relating to thrombosis (the formation of a blood clot) in the blood vessels (thromboembolic process), hypersensitivity and an increase in sexual desire (in women).

In male patients, under treatment with Androcur, sexual drive and potency are reduced and the function of the testicles is inhibited. These changes are reversible after discontinuation of therapy.

Over the course of several weeks, Androcur inhibits the formation of sperms (spermatogenesis) as a result of the antiandrogenic and antigonadotropic actions. Spermatogenesis recovers gradually within a few months of discontinuing the therapy.

In male patients, Androcur may lead to swelling of the breast gland (so-called gynaecomastia, sometimes combined with tenderness to touch of the mamillae) which usually regresses after withdrawal of the preparation.

In male patients long-term androgen deprivation with Androcur may lead to osteoporosis.

In women, ovulation is inhibited under the combined treatment, so that a state of infertility exists.

### **IDENTIFICATION OF ANDROCUR**

**Androcur 50 mg** tablets: White to faintly yellowish, round, flat-sided tablets with bevelled edges. Upper surface: imprinted with BV in an equilateral hexagon; lower surface: scored.

**Androcur 100 mg** tablets: White to faintly yellowish capsule-shaped tablets. Upper surface: imprinted with "LA" on both sides of the score; lower surface: imprinted with an equilateral hexagon.

### **PRESENTATION OF ANDROCUR**

**Androcur 50 mg** tablets: Cartons containing amber bottles of 20 or 50 tablets or 2 or 5 transparent PVC/aluminium blisters with 10 tablets per blister.

**Androcur 100 mg** tablets: Cartons containing 6 or 12 transparent PVC/aluminium blisters with 10 tablets per blister.

### **STORING AND DISPOSING OF ANDROCUR**

Store below 30 °C. Keep blister strips in the original carton until use.

Do not use Androcur after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and on each blister.

Return all unused medicine to your pharmacist.

Do not dispose of unused medicine in drains or sewerage systems (e.g. toilets).

KEEP OUT OF THE REACH AND SIGHT OF CHILDREN.

**REGISTRATION NUMBERS**

**Androcur 50 mg** tablets: R/21.12/160

**Androcur 100 mg** tablets: 29/21.12/0515

**NAME AND BUSSINESS ADDRESS OF THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**

Bayer (Pty) Ltd

Reg. No.: 1968/011192/07

27 Wrench Road

ISANDO

1609

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET**

13 June 2009