

PATIENT PACKAGE INSERT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PHARMACISTS' REGULATIONS (PREPARATIONS) – 1986

The medicine is dispensed with a doctor's prescription only



Androcur® 10 Tablets

Each tablet contains:

Cyproterone acetate 10 mg

Inactive ingredients and allergens: see section 6 “Further Information”.

Read the leaflet carefully in its entirety before using the medicine. This leaflet contains concise information about the medicine. If you have further questions, refer to the doctor or pharmacist.

This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them even if it seems to you that their condition is similar.

The medicine is not intended for children and adolescents before completion of puberty.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT ANDROCUR 10:

This section mentions the most essential information about treatment with Androcur 10, summarized from the leaflet. Even if you do not carefully read the entire leaflet, be sure to carefully read this short section:

- Use Androcur 10 in combination with a medicine that contains estrogen or an estrogen-progesterone combination.
- A treatment cycle is 21 days long. On the first day, start treatment with Androcur 10 together with a medicine that contains estrogen or an estrogen-progesterone combination for 15 days. After 15 days, Androcur 10 treatment will end and you will have to continue treatment with a medicine that contains estrogen or an estrogen-progesterone combination for 6 additional days. After completion of the treatment cycle, you will have to stop treatment for 7 days, during which bleeding is expected to occur. Begin the next treatment cycle after the 7-day break, irrespective of bleeding (see section 3 “How should you use the medicine?”).
- Do not use Androcur 10 as an exclusive contraceptive (see “Special warnings regarding use of the medicine” in section 2).

1) WHAT IS THE MEDICINE INTENDED FOR?

Androcur 10 is intended for anti-androgenic hormonal treatment of moderate or severe masculine signs in women.

Therapeutic group: Androcur 10 belongs to a group of medicines called “anti-androgens” and acts by inhibiting the effect of male hormones (androgens) that are also generated in the female body (to a lesser extent).

Androgens are male hormones that lead to development of male characteristics by binding receptors on different tissues of the body. Anti-androgens change the activity of androgens by blocking the receptors or by affecting their production.

Androcur 10 treats signs such as moderate or severe forms of acne and seborrhea, accompanied by an inflammatory process or formation of nodes or if there is risk of scarring, moderate to severe facial and body hair growth, moderate to severe scalp hair loss (androgen-dependent).

In cases of moderate or severe acne and seborrhea – additional Androcur 10 is given when the clinical state is unresponsive or resistant to other treatments and satisfactory results are not obtained from treatment with “Diana 35” estrogen-progestogen pills only.

When treating acne, the doctor should weigh hormonal treatment versus oral antibiotic treatment (not external treatment only).

2) BEFORE USING THE MEDICINE:

Do not use the medicine if:

- there is a known sensitivity to any of the ingredients of the medicine.
- the medicine is not intended for children and adolescents who have still not completed puberty.
- you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- you are suffering from liver diseases (such as Dubin-Johnson syndrome or Rotor syndrome).
- you have suffered in the past from jaundice, continuous itching and/or Pemphigoid gestationis (an autoimmune skin disease characterized by formation of blisters on the skin) during a previous pregnancy.
- you have or have had liver tumors.
- you have or are suspected to have malignant diseases.
- you have been diagnosed with a meningioma (this is usually a benign tumor of the meninges). Ask your doctor, if you are uncertain.
- you suffer from severe chronic depression.
- you are suffering, or have suffered in the past, from a disease associated with blood clots (thrombosis) in the veins and/or arteries (particularly stroke, and myocardial infarction).
- you suffer from severe diabetes (diabetes mellitus) with vascular changes.
- you are suffering from changes in red blood cells (sickle-cell anemia).
- you experience vaginal bleeding which has not been diagnosed by the doctor.

Read the contraindications (“Do not use the medicine if”) and the reasons for discontinuation of treatment with medicines containing estrogen or an estrogen-progesterone combination (oral contraceptive “pill”) indicated in their patient package inserts.

Special warnings regarding use of the medicine:

- Before starting treatment, you should undergo general examinations, including a gynecological examination. Pregnancy should be ruled out with certainty before starting treatment with the medicine. Use of Androcur 10 during pregnancy may cause appearance of feminine characteristics in male infants.
- Androcur 10 treatment should be combined with a suitable medicine containing estrogen or an estrogen-progesterone combination (oral contraceptive “pill”) in women who have completed puberty. This is the only way to prevent menstrual cycle abnormalities, irregular bleeding, and to obtain the required contraceptive protection.
- Despite the fact that cyproterone acetate (the active ingredient in Androcur 10) has a contraceptive effect in combination with estrogen or in combination with progesterone and estrogen, this medicine should not be used exclusively as a contraceptive, but only as a treatment for women who have androgen-dependent skin disorders (see section 1 “What is the medicine intended for?”).

Women treated with cyproterone acetate in combination with estrogen and/or a suitable estrogen-progesterone combination do not have to take an additional contraceptive (“pill”) during treatment.

How to respond to unexpected bleeding:

Do not discontinue treatment with the medicine in the event of mild, unexpected bleeding during the first three weeks of combination therapy. Nevertheless, you should consult the doctor in cases of heavy bleeding.

What should you do if you miss a period?

In the rare event that you do not menstruate in the seven-day break (without pills), stop treatment and inform the doctor. Do not continue taking the tablets before the doctor rules out pregnancy with certainty.

Liver

Inform the doctor immediately if the following symptoms occur:

- General malaise, fever, nausea, vomiting, lack of appetite, itching over your entire body, jaundice manifested by yellow skin and eyes, light-colored stool and dark-colored urine. These symptoms may be indicative of liver damage, including inflammation (hepatitis).
- Liver-function disorders, some severe (jaundice, hepatitis), have been observed in patients who were treated with Androcur 10. Liver-function disorders are dosage-dependent and generally develop within several months of initiation of treatment. This is why the doctor will check your liver function at the start of treatment and at regular intervals during treatment, particularly if there are any signs which may suggest liver damage. The doctor will discontinue treatment with Androcur 10 if liver damage is demonstrated.
- Unusual pain in the epigastric region, which does not go away on its own within a short time. This pain could be an indication of a benign or malignant liver tumor, with life-threatening intra-abdominal bleeding.

Diabetes

Inform the doctor if you suffer from diabetes, since it may be necessary to re-adjust your diabetes medications. For this reason, diabetes should be carefully monitored during treatment with Androcur 10 (see also “Do not use the medicine if” in section 2).

Meningioma

Use of cyproterone acetate is associated with the occurrence of a brain tumor which is usually benign (meningioma). The risk of this particularly increases if you use cyproterone acetate over a long period (years) or over a short duration at high dosages (25 mg daily and more). If you were diagnosed with a meningioma, your doctor will discontinue the treatment with cyproterone acetate (please see section 2 “Do not use the medicine if”). Please inform your doctor immediately if you notice the following symptoms: visual disorders (for example double vision or blurred vision), hearing loss or ringing in the ears, loss of sense of smell, worsening headaches, memory loss, seizures and feeling of weakness in the arms or legs.

Drug interactions:

If you are taking, or have recently taken, other medicines, including non-prescription medicines and nutritional supplements, tell the doctor or pharmacist. Especially inform the doctor or pharmacist if you are taking:

- Antifungals (e.g., ketoconazole, itraconazole and clotrimazole).
- Ritonavir (for treatment of HIV infection). These medicines may delay the degradation of the medicine in the blood and cause an undesirable rise in blood levels of the active ingredient.
- Rifampicin (for the treatment of tuberculosis), phenytoin (to treat epilepsy), preparations containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum*). These medicines may hasten the degradation of the medicine in the blood and cause an undesirable reduction in blood levels of the active ingredient.
- High dosages of Androcur 10 may block the activity of certain liver enzymes, which may impact the effect of other medicines. Note that the above information, including treatment with additional medicines, may apply to use of medicines taken concomitantly with Androcur 10 and also as a result of use of medicines taken close to the time of treatment with Androcur 10.

Use of the medicine and food

Swallow the tablet whole (do not chew), with a sufficient amount of fluids (preferably with a glass of drinking water). The medicine can be swallowed on an empty stomach or with food.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Do not use Androcur 10 during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.

Driving and operating machines

The effect on the ability to drive and operate machines has not been tested during treatment.

Important information regarding some of the ingredients of the medicine

The preparation contains lactose. If you know that you suffer from an intolerance to certain types of sugars, take Androcur 10 only after consulting the attending doctor.

Children and adolescents

The medicine is not intended for children and adolescents who have not completed puberty.

Androcur 10 should be used only after completion of puberty. Androcur 10 may have an adverse effect on growth in height if taken before completion of puberty. It is not known if an adjustment in the recommended dosage is necessary.

The safety and efficacy of Androcur 10 in children and adolescents under the age of 18 has not been established in clinical studies.

3) HOW SHOULD YOU USE THE MEDICINE?

Always use according to the doctor's instructions. Check with the doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure.

Androcur 10 tablets are for oral use.

The dosage and treatment regimen will be determined by the doctor only.

The usual dosage is generally for combination therapy with estrogen or with a progesterone-estrogen combination:

One tablet of Androcur 10 daily, from days 1 to 15 of combination therapy. In addition, from days 1 to 21, take suitable estrogen treatment or an estrogen-progesterone combination (oral contraceptive “pill”).

- Start the combination treatment on day 1 of your cycle (day 1 of menstruation). Only women who do not menstruate should begin the therapy prescribed by the doctor immediately; in this case, consider day 1 of treatment as day 1 of menstruation and calculate the rest of the treatment according to the recommendations.
- Remove the first Androcur 10 tablet from the pack according to the day of the week that the treatment starts (e.g., “Mon” indicates Monday) and swallow it whole. The time of day you take the tablets is not important; however, once you choose a time, for instance, after breakfast or dinner, adhere to it each day.
- From now on, take one Androcur 10 tablet each day in the direction of the arrow (a total of 14) and end with the tablet marked ‘15’. During the next 6 days, only take the estrogen or the progesterone-estrogen combination (oral contraceptive “pill”) tablets you are using. After 21 days of taking the tablets, there is a 7-day break from taking tablets, during which time bleeding will occur.
- Four weeks after you started taking the tablets (on the same day of the week), start the next combination treatment, whether the bleeding has stopped or not.

Mode of administration

- Swallow the tablet whole (do not chew) with a sufficient amount of fluids (preferably with a glass of drinking water).
- The tablets can be halved. The tablet is scored – the score is to break the tablet for ease of swallowing.

Duration of treatment with Androcur 10

Your doctor will determine the length of treatment, in accordance with the type and severity of the pathological masculine signs and response to treatment. Therapy will last for several months.

If the treatment has been unsuccessful or insufficiently successful, such as: severe acne for a period of 6 months or loss of scalp hair and hirsutism after at least 12 months of therapy, your doctor may decide to increase the dosage of cyproterone acetate in combination with estrogen or a suitable progesterone-estrogen combination.

If the treatment has been adequately successful, treatment can be continued with a low-dosage cyproterone acetate-estrogen combination or other anti-androgen sex hormones.

You should also read the additional instructions provided in the package leaflet of the estrogen tablets or of the progesterone-estrogen combination (oral contraceptive “pill”) that you are using.

Dosage recommendations for different populations

Children and adolescents: It is unknown if an adjustment of the recommended dosage is required. The safety and efficacy of Androcur 10 in children and adolescents under the age of 18 has not been determined in clinical studies (see section 2 “Before using the medicine”) for further information about children and adolescents.

Elderly population (above the age of 65 years): Androcur 10 is only indicated for women of childbearing age.

Patients with liver disease: Do not take Androcur 10 if you suffer from a liver disease (see section 2 “Before using the medicine”).

Patients with renal disorders: No studies have been performed regarding absorption of the medicine and degradation/clearance of Androcur 10 from the body in patients with renal function disorders.

Do not exceed the recommended dose

If you accidentally took a higher dosage: There is no information indicating serious side effects resulting from an overdose of Androcur 10. If you have taken an overdose or a child has accidentally swallowed the medicine, proceed immediately to a hospital emergency room and bring the package of the medicine with you.

If you forget to take the medicine: In the event that you forgot to take an Androcur 10 tablet at the usual time, continue the combination treatment on time, and skip the forgotten dose. Do not take the forgotten dose(s). The missed Androcur 10 tablet may result in reduced efficacy and to intermenstrual bleeding.

If you forgot to take the combination estrogen-progesterone tablet (oral contraceptive “pill”) at the regular time, take the tablet within 12 hours, at the latest.

If 12 hours from the regular dosing time have elapsed, there may be a reduction in the reliability of the contraceptive activity of the tablets in this cycle. Read the recommendations in the patient package insert of the estrogen or of the estrogen-progesterone combination (oral contraceptive “pill”) tablets that you are using (in particular, those relating to the effect of the missed dose on the contraceptive activity of the tablet).

How can you contribute to the success of the treatment?

Adhere to the treatment regimen as recommended by the doctor. Even if there is an improvement in your health, do not discontinue treatment with the medicine without consulting the doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take medicines in the dark! Check the label and the dose each time you take medicine. Wear glasses if you need them.

The duration of treatment will be determined individually, by the doctor, and can extend over a few months.

As the treatment is given together with estrogen or progesterone-estrogen combination (oral contraceptive “pill”) tablets, pay attention to the instructions and warnings in the leaflet of this medicine.

If you have further questions regarding use of the medicine, consult the doctor or pharmacist.

4) SIDE EFFECTS:

As with any medicine, use of Androcur 10 may cause side effects in some users. Do not be alarmed when reading the list of side effects. You may not suffer from any of them. The most common side effects among Androcur 10 patients are intermenstrual bleeding, weight gain and depression.

The most severe side effects are benign and malignant liver tumors that may cause life-threatening intra-abdominal bleeding.

Inform your doctor immediately, if any of the following side effects occur:

General malaise, fever, nausea, vomiting, lack of appetite, itching over the entire body, jaundice manifested by yellow skin and eyes, light-colored stool and dark-colored urine. These may be signs of liver damage, including hepatitis.

Unusual pain in the epigastric region, which does not go away on its own within a short time. This pain could be an indication of a benign or malignant liver tumor, with life-threatening intra-abdominal bleeding. See additional information in section 2 “Liver”. The following side effects have been reported in association with Androcur 10 treatment; their frequency cannot be estimated from the available data:

Benign and malignant liver tumors (for further information, see section 2 “Before using the medicine” and “Special warnings regarding use of the medicine”), allergic reactions (hypersensitivity), weight gain or loss, rise in blood sugar levels in diabetics, liver-function disorders, jaundice, hepatitis, depression, decrease in sex drive (libido), increase in sex drive (libido), intra-abdominal bleeding (for further information, see section 2 “Before using the medicine” and “Special warnings regarding use of the medicine”), skin reactions, pain, breast tenderness or enlargement, particularly at the start of treatment, irregular or absent menstrual bleeding, spotting (for further information, see section 2 “Before using the medicine” and “Special warnings regarding use of the medicine”). Cases of meningioma (this is usually a benign tumor of the meninges) have been reported in association with prolonged use (years) of Androcur 10 at dosages of 25 mg/day and more (please also see section 2) (frequency: rare).

Complaints of stomach pain and nausea have been reported usually in connection with medicines which contain cyproterone acetate, the active ingredient of Androcur 10.

If any of the side effects worsen, or if you are suffering from any side effect not mentioned in this leaflet, consult the doctor.

Side effects can be reported to the Ministry of Health by clicking on the link “Report Side Effects of Drug Treatment” found on the Ministry of Health homepage (www.health.gov.il) that directs you to the online form for reporting side effects, or by entering the link: <https://sideeffects.health.gov.il>

5) HOW SHOULD THE MEDICINE BE STORED?

- Avoid poisoning! This medicine and any other medicine must be kept in a closed place out of the reach of children and/or infants in order to avoid poisoning. Do not induce vomiting without an explicit instruction from the doctor.
- Do not use the medicine after the expiry date (exp. date) that appears on the package. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- There are no special storage conditions. It is recommended to keep at room temperature.

6) FURTHER INFORMATION:

- In addition to the active ingredient, the medicine also contains: Lactose monohydrate, Maize starch, Polyvidone 25, Magnesium stearate, Silica Colloidal anhydrous
- What does the medicine look like and what are the contents of the package?
 - Androcur 10 tablets are white to pale yellow with a decorative score on one side and embossed with “BW” in a hexagon on the other. The score is to break the tablet for ease of swallowing, and not to divide the tablet into equal doses.
 - The tablets are sold in a carton package with a blister tray that contains 15 tablets.
- Registration Holder and Address: Bayer Israel, Ltd., 36 Hacharash St., Hod Hasharon 45240
- Name of Manufacturer and Address: Bayer Weimar GmbH und Co. KG Weimar, Germany.
- Revised in November 2020
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