

Patient leaflet in accordance with the Pharmacists' Regulations (Preparations) - 1986

This medicine is dispensed with a doctor's prescription only

Neotigason 10 mg Capsules

Active ingredient:

Each capsule contains: Acitretin 10 mg

For information about inactive ingredients and allergens: see section 2 under 'Important information about some of this medicine's ingredients' and section 6, 'Additional information'.

Read the entire leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine. This leaflet contains concise information about this medicine. If you have any further questions, consult your doctor or pharmacist. This medicine has been prescribed to treat your illness. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if it seems to you that their medical condition is similar to yours.

Patient safety information card (patient reminder card)

In addition to the patient information leaflet, Neotigason also has a patient safety information card relating to possible harm to an unborn baby. The card is at the end of this leaflet.

This card contains important safety information that you need to know and that you should follow before starting and during treatment with Neotigason. Carefully read the patient safety information card and patient information leaflet before you start using this medicine. Keep the card and the leaflet in case you need to read them again.

Warning

This medicinal product can seriously harm unborn babies (teratogenic medicinal product).

Women must strictly follow the use of effective means of contraception. Do not use this medicinal product if you are pregnant or think that you might be pregnant.

1. WHAT IS THIS MEDICINE INTENDED FOR?

Neotigason is intended to treat severe disorders of keratinization such as erythrodermic psoriasis local or generalized; pustular psoriasis; congenital ichthyosis; pityriasis rubra pilaris; Darier's disease. Neotigason enables your skin to grow more normally. Neotigason is usually prescribed while under the treatment of a dermatology specialist (skin doctor).

Therapeutic group:

Neotigason contains the active ingredient called 'acitretin' and belongs to a group of medicines called 'retinoids'.

2. BEFORE USING THIS MEDICINE

Do not use this medicine if:

- You are sensitive (allergic) to acitretin or to any of the other ingredients that this medicine contains (see section 6, 'Additional information').
- You are allergic to other 'retinoid' medicines, including isotretinoin and tazarotene (see section 2 under "Interactions with other medicines").
- **You are pregnant or breastfeeding** (see section 2 under "Important information for women of childbearing age" and under "Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility" and "Pregnancy prevention program").
- There is any chance that you could get pregnant. You must strictly follow the precautionary measures specified in the section "Pregnancy prevention program". See section 2 under "Special warnings about using this medicine" and under "Important information for women of childbearing age".
- You have liver or kidney problems.
- You have very high levels of fat in your blood (hyperlipidaemia).
- You are concurrently being treated with antibiotic medicines, such as tetracyclines (to treat an infection) or a medicine called methotrexate (to treat skin problems, arthritis or cancer). See section 2 under "Interactions with other medicines".

- You are taking other 'retinoid' medicines, or medicines, vitamins, dietary supplements or foods that contain Vitamin A. See section 2 under 'Interactions with other medicines'.
- You have glucose intolerance (see section 2 under 'Important information about some of this medicine's ingredients').

Do not take Neotigason if any of the information specified above applies to you. If you are not sure, consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking this medicine.

Special warnings regarding use of this medicine

Before using Neotigason, tell your doctor if:

- You have diabetes. You will need to monitor your blood sugar levels more often when you start taking Neotigason.
- You have high levels of fat in your blood, you are overweight, you drink high amounts of alcohol or if you are at risk of heart disease. Your doctor may need to order blood tests while you are treated with Neotigason to check the level of fat and/or sugar in your blood, and check your blood pressure.
- You spend time in strong sunlight or intend to use a tanning bed. Neotigason may amplify the effect of UV light on your skin. You must apply a sunblock to exposed skin before going out into strong sunlight.
- You have ever had any mental health problems, including depression, outbreaks of aggression, mood changes, or signs of psychosis (altered sense of reality, such as hearing voices or seeing things that are not there). This is because taking Neotigason may affect your mood and mental health.

Instructions for all patients

Acitretin frequently increases the levels of fat in the blood, such as cholesterol or triglycerides, which might be associated with inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis). Tell your doctor if you experience severe pain in your abdomen and back (these can be signs of pancreatitis).

Mental health problems

You may not notice changes in your mood and behavior. Therefore, it is very important to tell your family and friends that this medicine could affect your mood and behavior. They may notice such changes and help you identify any problems that you need to discuss with your doctor.

Additional issues to consider when taking Neotigason:

- A serious condition that causes small blood vessels (capillaries) to leak has been reported in very rare instances during treatment with Neotigason (which is called Capillary Leak Syndrome/Retinoic Acid Syndrome). This condition may lead to very low blood pressure (hypotension), to a build-up of fluid that causes swelling (edema) and to shock (collapse).
- A severe skin reaction with signs of rash, blistering or peeling of the skin (exfoliative dermatitis) has been reported very rarely during treatment.
- Neotigason may affect your liver function. Your doctor may order blood tests while you are taking this medicine to monitor your liver function.
- Neotigason may cause increased pressure in your head. Tell your doctor if you have severe headaches, nausea, vomiting, or vision changes. Your doctor may carry out further checks.
- Neotigason may cause changes in bone growth. Tell your doctor if you have pain in your muscles or bones. Your doctor may carry out further checks.
- High doses of Neotigason may cause mood changes, such as irritability, aggression or depression.
- Hair loss is a very common side effect of Neotigason.

If any of the above effects apply to you, or if you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking Neotigason.

Important information for women of childbearing age Neotigason causes birth defects in unborn babies (teratogenic medicinal product). You must strictly follow the instructions below, even if you have a history of infertility problems.

Pregnancy prevention program

Pregnant women must not take Neotigason.

This medicine can cause serious harm in an unborn baby (teratogenic medicine). This medicine can cause severe birth defects in an unborn baby's brain, face, ears, eyes, heart and in various glands (thymus gland and parathyroid gland). In addition, this medicine increases the risk of miscarriages. This may occur even if the medicine is taken only for a short period during pregnancy.

- **You must not take Neotigason if you are pregnant or if you think that you might be pregnant.**
- **You must not take Neotigason if you are breastfeeding. Neotigason could pass into your breast milk and cause harm to your baby.**
- **You must not take Neotigason if you could get pregnant during the treatment with this medicine.**

- **You must not get pregnant for 3 years after stopping the treatment with Neotigason, because some of the medicine may still remain in your body.**

Women of childbearing age who may get pregnant are prescribed Neotigason under the strict rules specified below, due to the risk of serious harm to an unborn baby.

For women of childbearing age, the rules for receiving the treatment are as follows:

- **Your doctor must explain to you the risk of harm to an unborn baby. You must understand why you must not get pregnant and what you must do in order to prevent getting pregnant.**
- **You must have talked with your doctor about means of birth control (contraception). Your doctor will advise you about how you can prevent yourself from getting pregnant. Your doctor may send you to a specialist to receive advice about means of contraception.**
- **Before you start treatment, your doctor will ask you to take a pregnancy test. The test result must show that you are not pregnant when you start the treatment with Neotigason.**

Women must strictly use effective contraception before, during and after taking Neotigason.

- **You must agree to use at least one very reliable means of contraception (such as an intra-uterine device or contraceptive implant) or two effective means of contraception that work in different ways (such as hormonal birth-control pills and a condom). Consult with your doctor about which means of contraception would be most suitable for you.**
- **You must use means of contraception for one month before starting treatment with Neotigason, throughout the treatment with this medicine and for three years after stopping the treatment.**
- **You must use means of contraception even if you do not have menstrual periods and even if you are not sexually active (unless your doctor decides that this is not necessary).**

Women must agree to take pregnancy tests before, during and after taking Neotigason.

- **You must agree to regular visits to your doctor, ideally every month.**
- **You must agree to regularly take pregnancy tests, ideally every month during treatment with Neotigason. In addition, because some of the medicine may still remain in your body, also every one to three months for 3 years after you stop taking Neotigason (unless your doctor decides that this is not necessary in your case).**
- **You must agree to take additional pregnancy tests at your doctor's request.**
- **You must not get pregnant during the treatment with Neotigason or for 3 years after treatment ends, because some of this medicine may still remain in your body.**
- **Your doctor will discuss all of the above points with you, using a checklist, and will ask you (or a parent/guardian) to sign it. This list confirms that you have received an explanation about the risks and that you will follow the above rules.**
- **If you get pregnant while you are taking Neotigason, stop using this medicine immediately and contact your doctor. Your doctor may refer you to a specialist for advice.**
- **In addition, if you get pregnant within 3 years after you stopped taking Neotigason, contact your doctor. Your doctor may refer you to a specialist for advice.**

Advice for men

The levels of retinoid in semen of men who are taking Neotigason orally, are too low to harm their partners' unborn babies. However, you must never share this medicine with anyone.

Additional warnings

You must never give this medicine to any other person. When you complete your treatment, please return any unused capsules to your pharmacist.

Important information for people who donate blood

You must not donate blood during your treatment with this medicine and for three years after you stop taking Neotigason, because an unborn baby could be harmed if a pregnant patient receives your blood donation.

Children and adolescents

Do not give Neotigason to children. Neotigason may cause changes in children's bone growth.

Interactions with other medicines

If you are taking or have recently taken other medicines, including non-prescription medicines and dietary supplements, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Neotigason can affect how other medicines work. Other medicines could also affect how Neotigason works.

Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- An antibiotic called tetracycline (to treat an infection).
- A medicine called methotrexate (to treat skin problems, arthritis or cancer).
- Other medicines containing retinoids, such as isotretinoin or tazarotene.
- Medicines, vitamins or dietary supplements that contain Vitamin A.

Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- Phenytoin (used to treat epilepsy).
- Low dose progesterone only contraceptives (mini-pills).

Using Neotigason and food and alcohol consumption

Women of childbearing age should not consume alcohol (in drinks, food or medications) during treatment with Neotigason and for two months after stopping this treatment. Concurrent ingestion of Neotigason and alcohol may result in the formation of a substance called etretinate, which may be harmful to an unborn baby. If this substance is indeed formed, it takes a long time for it to be completely eliminated from the body.

Pregnancy, breastfeeding, and fertility

This medicinal product may seriously harm an unborn baby (it is a highly teratogenic medicinal product). You must not use this medicinal product if you are pregnant or think that you might be pregnant. Women of childbearing age must strictly follow the use of effective means of contraception for 4 weeks before starting treatment with the medicine, during the treatment and for the duration of 3 years after stopping treatment with this medicine.

Do not use this medicinal product if you are breastfeeding.

For additional information about pregnancy, means of contraception and breastfeeding, please see section 2, "Special warnings about using this medicine" under "Pregnancy prevention program" and under "Important information for women of childbearing age".

Driving and using machines

Your vision may be affected, particularly at nighttime, while you are taking Neotigason. Be careful while driving and using any tools or machinery.

Important information about some of this medicine's ingredients

Neotigason contains glucose, which is a type of sugar. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars or cannot digest them, consult with your doctor before taking this medicine.

This medicine contains a negligible amount of sodium (less than 1 mmol of sodium – 23 mg per capsule) and is therefore considered "sodium-free".

3. HOW TO USE THIS MEDICINE?

Always take Neotigason according to your doctor's instructions.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about your dose or about how to take this medicine.

How to take the medicine:

- Take Neotigason once a day, at mealtime or with milk.
- Swallow the capsule whole.
- There is no information about opening and releasing the contents of the capsule.

The dosage varies from one patient to another. Only your doctor will determine your dose and how you should take this medicine. The recommended dose is usually:

Adults and elderly people:

- The usual starting dosage for adults and the elderly is 25 mg up to 30 mg once a day.
- After 2 to 4 weeks, your doctor may increase or lower your dose, depending upon how you respond and how the medicine affects you.
- The maximum daily dose is 75 mg per day.
- Most patients take Neotigason for up to three months. However, your doctor may decide that you need to continue taking it for a longer treatment period. You must not take Neotigason for more than six consecutive months.

Do not exceed the recommended dose.

Children and adolescents:

Neotigason should not be given to children. If the doctor does prescribe this medicine to a child, the doctor will decide the appropriate dose according to the child's weight.

If you have accidentally taken a higher dose, if a child has accidentally swallowed some of this medicine, or if anyone else has taken this medicine by mistake, immediately see a doctor or go to a hospital emergency room and bring the medicine package with you. The following effects may occur: severe headache, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, drowsiness, irritability or itchy skin.

If you forget to take the medicine at the scheduled time, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is nearly time to take the next dose, then skip the missed dose. Do not take a double dose (two doses at the same time) to make up for the dose you forgot to take.

If anyone else has accidentally taken your medicine, that person must contact a doctor or go immediately to the nearest hospital.

If you stop taking this medicine

Do not stop taking the medicine without consulting your doctor.

How can you contribute to the success of the treatment?

Follow the treatment as recommended by your doctor.

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

If you have any further questions about using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist.

4. SIDE EFFECTS

As with any medicine, taking Neotigason may cause side effects in some users. Do not be alarmed by this list of side effects; you may not experience any of them.

You may experience side effects during treatment with Neotigason even before you see any improvement in your skin. For the most part, these effects will stop as you continue your treatment with the medicine. Your doctor will help you deal with them.

Stop taking Neotigason and contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following side effects:

- Immediate allergic reaction, with symptoms such as skin rash, swollen or itchy skin, swelling of your face, lips, throat or tongue, red or swollen eyes, severe nasal congestion, asthma or wheezing. The reaction can be minor or life-threatening.
- Severe headache.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Vision problems.
- You feel pain in your muscles, bones or joints. This effect may indicate that you have extra growth on the surface of your bones. This effect may occur after prolonged use of Neotigason. Your doctor may want to check you regularly to find out if this is happening. These checks are particularly important if a child is taking Neotigason.

Additional side effects:

Very common side effects (affecting more than 1 in 10 users):

- Dry, irritated or swollen eyes, which may lead to intolerance to contact lenses.
- Dry, irritated or runny nose; nose bleeds.
- Dry mouth and thirst.
- Dryness or inflammation of the lips, which may be alleviated by applying an oily balm; itching; hair loss; peeling of the skin on palms of hands or soles of feet or in other places on the body.
- Changes in liver function (which is shown in blood tests).
- Increase in the level of fats in blood (which is shown in blood tests).

Common side effects (affecting 1–10 in 100 users):

- Headache.
- Inflammation of the mucous tissues of the mouth; abdominal pain; diarrhea; nausea and vomiting.
- Fragile skin, sticky feeling on the skin or a rash, skin inflammation; changes in hair texture; brittle nails; skin infection around the nail and reddening of the skin.
- Joint pain and muscle pain.
- Swelling of hands, ankles, and feet.

Uncommon side effects (affecting 1–10 in 1,000 users):

- Dizziness.
- Blurred vision.
- Inflammation of the gums.
- Inflammation of the liver.
- Fissures, cracks or fine linear scars in the skin, such as around the mouth (rhagades), blisters and inflammation of the skin (dermatitis bullous), skin being more sensitive to the sun (photosensitivity reaction).

Rare side effects (affecting 1–10 in 10,000 users):

- Damage to the peripheral nervous system, which may include symptoms such as muscle weakness, numbness and tingling in the feet and hands, or a burning sensation, stabbing or shooting pain.

Very rare side effects (affecting less than 1 in 10,000 users):

- Intracranial hypertension.
- Night blindness, inflammation of the cornea of the eye (ulcerative keratitis).
- Yellowing of the skin or the whites of the eyes (jaundice).
- Bone pain, changes in bone growth.

Side effects of unknown frequency (the frequency of these effects has not been established yet):

- Vaginitis (fungal infection, candida).
- Hearing impairment, ringing in the ears (tinnitus).
- Serious condition, called Capillary Leak Syndrome/Retinoic Acid Syndrome), which causes small blood vessels (capillaries) to leak. This condition may lead to severe hypotension (very low blood pressure), to edema (build-up of fluid that causes swelling) and to shock (collapse).
- Flushing, sweating, facial reddening.
- Changes in the way things taste; bleeding of the rectum.
- Severe skin reaction, with symptoms such as rash, blistering or peeling of the skin (exfoliative dermatitis).
- Small reddish bumps appearing on the skin that may bleed easily (pyogenic granuloma); scaling or thinning of the skin.
- Cracks or scars in the corners of the mouth.
- Loss of eyelashes or eyebrows (madarosis).
- Improved or worsened sugar tolerance in diabetic patients.
- General unwell feeling, drowsiness.
- Swelling of the face, lips, throat or tongue (angioedema).
- Severe itchy rash with pale or red asymmetrical raised patches (hives).
- Changes in the sound of the voice (dysphonia).
- Altered mood
- Signs of psychosis: altered sense of reality, such as hearing voices or seeing things that are not there.

An initial worsening of psoriasis symptoms is sometimes seen at the beginning of the treatment period.

If you experience any side effect, if any side effect gets worse, or if you experience a side effect not mentioned in this leaflet, consult your doctor.

Reporting side effects

You can report side effects to the Ministry of Health by following the link 'Reporting Side Effects due to Medicinal Treatment' found on the Ministry of Health home page (www.health.gov.il), which links to an online form for reporting side effects. You can also use this link: <https://sideeffects.health.gov.il>.

5. HOW TO STORE THE MEDICINE?

Prevent poisoning! This and all other medicines should be kept in a closed place out of the reach and sight of children and/or infants in order to avoid poisoning. Do not induce vomiting unless explicitly instructed to do so by a doctor.

Do not use the medicine after the expiry date (exp. date) which appears on the package. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Storage conditions:

- **Store below 25°C.**
- **Keep the medicine in the original package to protect from light and moisture. Protect from heat.**

Return the capsules you no longer use to your pharmacist so that they will be disposed of properly.

Do not dispose of the medicine via wastewater or household waste. Ask the pharmacist how to dispose of medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment. Only keep the medicine if your doctor tells you to do so.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to the active ingredient, this medicine also contains:

The capsule contains:

Microcrystalline cellulose, glucose (liquid, spray-dried), gelatin, sodium ascorbate, purified water.

Capsule composition:

Gelatin, titanium dioxide (E171), iron oxide red (E172), iron oxide black (E172), iron oxide yellow (E172), shellac, isopropyl alcohol, n-butyl alcohol, propylene glycol, ammonium hydroxide.

What the medicine looks like and contents of the package:

Neotigason 10 mg: brown and white capsules printed with "10" in black on the white half of the capsule.

Neotigason 25 mg: brown and yellow capsules printed with "25" in black on the yellow half of the capsule.

Packs contain 30 or 100 capsules in blister packs.

Not all package sizes may be marketed.

Name and address of manufacturer and license holder:

Teva Israel Ltd., 124 Devora HaNevi'a, Tel Aviv 6944020.

The leaflet was revised in November 2024.

Medicine registration numbers in the Ministry of Health's National

Drug Registry:

Neotigason 10 mg: 100.62.28448

Neotigason 25 mg: 100.61.28449

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