

## PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

### BROMOCRIPTINE

#### **ABOUT** your medicine

Bromocriptine may be used for the treatment of any one of the following medical problems:

- Male and female infertility, male hormone problems, menstrual problems, benign breast disease and abnormal milk leakage due to excessive production of the hormone, prolactin.
- Suppression of lactation after childbirth
- Parkinson's disease
- Acromegaly (the overproduction of growth hormone)
- Tumours of the pituitary gland

#### **HOW** should I take the medicine?

Bromocriptine can be taken with meals or milk if it causes stomach discomfort. Taking it at bedtime may reduce nausea, if it occurs.

Some patients may need to take the medicine for weeks before the full benefits are achieved. Do not stop the medicine even if you feel that it is not working.

#### What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

If you miss a dose, you can take it within 4 hours of your usual dosing time. If more than 4 hours have passed, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at its usual time. Do not double the dose.

#### What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

Gastrointestinal: nausea, constipation, loss of appetite, dry mouth.

Cardiovascular: low blood pressure (resulting in dizziness, light-headedness or fainting when getting up from sitting, lying or squatting position), worsening of tingling or pain in fingers and toes when exposed to cold.

Central nervous system: depression, confusion, hallucination.

Neuromuscular and skeletal: leg cramps, uncontrolled movements of the body (including face, tongue, arms, hands, head and upper body).

Respiratory: nasal congestion.

Some side-effects are likely to occur at the higher doses of bromocriptine used in Parkinson's disease, acromegaly or pituitary tumours.

Some side-effects go away after a while, with continuous use of the medicine.

Check with your doctor if you experience any unwanted side-effects.

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Bromocriptine may cause drowsiness and dizziness. If affected, do not drive or operate machinery. Dizziness is more likely at the beginning of therapy. Taking the first dose at bedtime may reduce dizziness. Get up slowly from sitting, lying or squatting position if such movements cause dizziness.

Consumption of alcohol with bromocriptine may cause blurred vision, chest pain, confusion and fast and pounding heartbeat.

Check with your physician before you take bromocriptine with other medicines as drug interactions are possible.

Do not stop your medicine suddenly as this may cause unwanted effects.

Keep all medication out of reach of children

Pregnancy: Female patients not wanting to conceive should use non-hormonal methods of contraception as hormonal methods may reduce the effectiveness of bromocriptine. Tell the doctor immediately, if you think you are pregnant. Discuss if bromocriptine should be continued during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding: Bromocriptine stops the production of milk. However, even if the prevention of lactation fails, do not breast-feed.

How should **I STORE** the medicine?

Store the medicine in a cool, dry place. Protect from moisture, heat and direct light.

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Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required