

# ANDROCUR®

(ANNE·dro·cur)

*cyproterone acetate*

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## Consumer Medicine Information

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### WHAT IS IN THIS LEAFLET

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This leaflet answers some common questions about Androcur.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Androcur against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

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### WHAT ANDROCUR IS USED FOR

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Androcur is an anti-androgen medicine.

Androgens such as testosterone are natural male sex hormones which are also produced, to a slight extent, in females.

#### **MEN:**

In men, androgens may help cancer cells to grow in some types of prostate cancer. By blocking these hormones, Androcur may slow or stop the growth of cancer. Androcur may also be used in combination with other medicines or following surgical removal of the testes to treat side effects such as “hot

flushes” or “sweats” and to prevent any initial worsening of the disease.

Androcur is also used to reduce abnormal sex drive in men.

#### **WOMEN:**

In women, androgens may increase hair growth, loss of scalp hair and secretion of oil from the sweat glands. By blocking these hormones, Androcur may slow or stop excessive hairiness, loss of scalp hair, acne, oily skin and dandruff.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is available only with a doctor’s prescription.

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### BEFORE YOU TAKE ANDROCUR

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*When you must not take it*

**Do not take Androcur if you have an allergy to:**

- cyproterone acetate, the active ingredient in Androcur
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin

Androcur should not be taken by children and adolescents below 18 years of age or girls who have not completed puberty.

**Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant or suspect you may be pregnant.**

It may affect your developing baby if you take it during pregnancy.

**Do not breastfeed if you are taking this medicine.**

The active ingredient in Androcur passes into breast milk and there is a possibility that your baby may be affected.

**Do not take Androcur if you have any of the following medical conditions:**

- liver disease, previous or existing liver tumours unless they are caused by metastases from prostate cancer (your doctor would have told you if you have this)
- Dubin-Johnson or Rotor syndrome (your doctor would have told you if you have either of these conditions)
- history of jaundice (yellow skin or eyes), herpes or persistent itching during a previous pregnancy
- previous or existing benign brain tumour (meningioma)
- wasting disease (a disease causing muscle loss or loss of strength, with the exception of prostate cancer)
- severe and persistent depression
- previous or existing conditions relating to formation of blood clots

- severe diabetes with blood vessel changes (your doctor would have told you if you have this)
- sickle-cell anaemia (your doctor would have told you if you have this)

Androcur tablets contain lactose monohydrate. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking Androcur.

**Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack and blister.**

The expiry date is printed on the carton and on each blister after “EXP” (e.g. 11 18 refers to November 2018). The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. If it has expired return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

**Do not take this medicine if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

If the packaging is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

**If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.**

*Before you start to take it*

**Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.**

**Tell your doctor if you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:**

- diabetes
- history of blood clotting or sickle cell anaemia
- osteoporosis, a family history of osteoporosis or risk factors for developing osteoporosis (such as smoking, a diet low in calcium, poor mobility, a slight build or treatment with steroid medicines)

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.**

If taken during pregnancy, Androcur may lead to signs of feminisation in the male foetus.

Therefore, your doctor will check that you are not pregnant before you start taking Androcur. Women should use a reliable form of contraception while taking Androcur.

**Tell your doctor if fertility after treatment is important.**

For men it is recommended that a sperm count is taken to establish fertility before commencing Androcur. It can take 3-20 months for fertile sperm production to be re-established after stopping this medicine.

The long-term effects of Androcur on female fertility are not known.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking Androcur.**

*Taking other medicines*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines and Androcur may interfere with each other. These include:

- phenytoin, a medicine used to treat epilepsy
- medicines used to treat fungal infections, including ketoconazole, itraconazole, clotrimazole
- ritonavir, a medicine used in the treatment of HIV
- rifampicin, an antibiotic used to treat infections such as tuberculosis and leprosy
- St John's wort, a herbal remedy used to treat mood disorders
- Statins (HMGCoA inhibitors), medicines used to lower cholesterol levels in people with or at risk of cardiovascular disease
- medicines used to treat diabetes

These medicines may be affected by Androcur, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you

may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist may have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.

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## HOW TO TAKE ANDROCUR

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**Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.**

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**If you do not understand the instructions printed on the pharmacist label, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

*How much to take*

Your doctor will advise of the most suitable dose for you to take.

**Do not alter the dose yourself.**

Your doctor will advise you if changing the dose is necessary.

**MEN:**

**Prostate cancer**

The usual daily dose is 50-300 mg of Androcur. Your doctor may request you take Androcur with other medicines and/or change your dose during treatment.

**Reduction of abnormal sex drive**

Generally treatment is started with 50 mg of Androcur twice daily and may be increased to 100 mg twice daily or three times daily before reducing gradually to the lowest effective dose. Your doctor may change your dose during treatment.

**WOMEN:**

If you are of childbearing age, you should commence your tablet taking on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of your cycle (= 1<sup>st</sup> day of bleeding). If you have no menstrual periods (amenorrhoea) your treatment can start immediately. In this case, the first day of treatment is to be regarded as the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the cycle.

Starting from day 1 take 50-100 mg (as advised by your doctor) of Androcur daily from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the cycle (= for 10 days). Additionally, your doctor will advise the most appropriate contraceptive for you to take to provide the necessary contraceptive protection and to stabilise your cycle.

Your doctor will re-evaluate your treatment when you reach menopause. Long-term use (years) of Androcur should be avoided.

If you are postmenopausal or have had a hysterectomy, Androcur may be administered alone. The usual dose is 25-50 mg of Androcur once daily for 21 days, followed by a 7-day tablet-free interval.

Shortness of breath may occur at high doses.

#### *How to take it*

**Swallow the tablets whole with some liquid after meals.**

#### *When to take it*

**Take your medicine after meals at about the same time each day.**

Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

Missed Androcur tablets may diminish the effectiveness of treatment and may lead to breakthrough bleeding in women.

#### *How long to take it*

**Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.**

This medicine helps to control your condition, but does not cure it. It is important to keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

#### *If you forget to take it*

**If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.**

**Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.**

**Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.**

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

**If you are also taking an oral contraceptive and more than 12 hours has elapsed from the time Androcur was due to be taken, note that contraceptive protection in this cycle may be reduced and thus there is an increased risk of becoming pregnant.**

**If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.**

#### *If you take too much (overdose)*

**Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Androcur. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

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## WHILE YOU ARE TAKING ANDROCUR

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#### *Things you must do*

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Androcur.**

**Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.**

**Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.**

Your doctor may do some tests from time to time to make sure the

medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

Your doctor will check your liver function during treatment with Androcur and whenever any symptoms or signs suggesting liver problems are observed.

If you have diabetes, your doctor will monitor you to ensure that you receive the appropriate dose of oral antidiabetic or insulin whilst taking Androcur.

Your doctor will also check your red-blood cell count to ensure you do not become anaemic during treatment with Androcur.

**If you are a female taking an oral contraceptive during treatment, tell your doctor if your period does not occur during the tablet-free / placebo interval.**

Your doctor may need to check whether you are pregnant before you can continue treatment.

**If you are a male taking Androcur to reduce abnormal sex drive, you should consider undertaking additional measures such as therapy or counselling in order to take advantage of the period of reduced drive.**

These measures may assist in achieving personal and social re-orientation.

#### *Things you must not do*

**Do not take Androcur to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.**

**Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.**

**Do not stop taking your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.**

If you stop taking it suddenly, your condition may worsen or you may have unwanted side effects.

#### *Things to be careful of*

**Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Androcur affects you.**

This medicine may cause tiredness and can impair the ability to

concentrate. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

**Be careful when drinking alcohol while you are taking this medicine.**

If you drink alcohol, tiredness and the ability to concentrate may be worse. Alcohol may prevent Androcur from working as well as it should in reducing abnormal sex drive.

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## SIDE EFFECTS

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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Androcur.**

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects.**

You may not experience any of them.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- tiredness, fatigue
- weight change
- headache
- depressive mood
- nausea and other gastrointestinal complaints
- decreased sexual drive
- breast pain, change in breast size, breast swelling and/or tenderness
- breast enlargement in men
- menstrual cycle irregularity, spotting
- hot flushes, sweating
- shortness of breath
- osteoporosis

If you were fertile before treatment, Androcur will normally prevent sperm production in men and ovulation in women. In men, fertility is usually regained within a few months of discontinuing therapy. The long term effects on female fertility are not known.

In men Androcur will also normally result in the inability to get or maintain an erection (impotence). This ability is usually also regained within a few months of discontinuing therapy.

The above includes the more common side effects of your medicine.

Use of cyproterone acetate has been linked to the development of meningioma (generally benign tumour). The risk increases when used for several years, or with high doses (25 mg per day and above).

**Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:**

- changes in vision (e.g. seeing double or blurriness),
- hearing loss or ringing in the ears,
- loss of smell,
- headaches that worsen with time,
- memory loss,
- seizures,
- weakness in your arms or legs

**Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:**

- yellowing of the skin and/or eyes, light coloured bowel motions, dark coloured urine
- severe upper abdominal pain
- vomiting blood or material that looks like coffee grounds, bleeding from the back passage, black sticky bowel motions (stools) or bloody diarrhoea
- sudden severe headache, loss of vision, loss of coordination, slurred speech, shortness of breath, chest pain, numbness,

heat or swelling in the arms and legs

The above list includes serious side effects that may require medical attention or hospitalisation. Serious side effects are rare.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed above may happen in some people.

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## AFTER TAKING ANDROCUR

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### *Storage*

**Keep your tablets in the pack until it is time to take them.**

If you take the tablets out of the pack, they may not keep well.

**Keep your tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30 °C.**

**Do not store Androcur or any other medicine in the bathroom, near a sink, or on a window-sill.**

**Do not leave it in the car.**

Heat and damp can destroy some medicines.

**Keep it where children cannot reach it.**

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

### *Disposal*

**If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.**

**Return any unused medicine to your pharmacist.**

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## PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

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### *What it looks like*

Androcur 50 mg tablets are white, round tablets, scored on one side with “BV” marking in a hexagon on the other side, presented in blisters containing 20 or 50 tablets.

### *Ingredients*

Active ingredients per tablet:

- Androcur 50 - 50 mg of cyproterone acetate

Inactive ingredients:

- lactose monohydrate
- corn starch
- povidone
- magnesium stearate
- aerosil

### *Supplier*

Made in France for:

Bayer Australia Limited  
ABN 22 000 138 714  
875 Pacific Highway  
Pymble, NSW 2073

### *Australian Registration Number*

Androcur 50 mg tablets:  
AUST R 156920

### *Date of preparation*

18 November 2020

See TGA website  
([www.ebs.tga.gov.au](http://www.ebs.tga.gov.au)) for latest Australian Consumer Medicine Information.

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