Acitretin is a medicine that is used to treat certain skin conditions. It is important to follow the instructions provided in this leaflet and to discuss any concerns with your doctor.

1. What Acitretin is and what it is used for

Acitretin is a medicine called a "vitamin A" derivative. It is a white or almost white, crystalline powder. It is available as Acitretin Capsules, which contain 25 mg of active substance.

Acitretin is used to treat skin problems such as psoriasis, ichthyosis, and keratosis follicularis (Darier's disease). It works by affecting the way the skin grows and the amount of natural fats in the skin. This helps to improve the condition of the skin and reduces the appearance of the skin lesions.

2. Important information for women

Acitretin will damage an unborn baby. The following information applies to women and to people who are planning to become pregnant.

- **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**: It is very important to avoid pregnancy while you are taking Acitretin and for 3 years after stopping Acitretin. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. The PREGNANCY AND PREVENTION PROGRAMME is available from any MIMS leaflet distributor. This includes any possible side effects for women and information on how not to get pregnant. The doctor will give you a form to sign and will ask you (or a parent/ guardian) to sign it. This form confirms that you have understood why you must not get pregnant.

- **Important information for blood donors**: If you are donating blood, you must tell the person who takes your blood.

- **Driving**: Acitretin may affect your ability to drive. You may not notice some changes in your mood.

3. Important information for men

Acitretin will damage any sperm that exist in your body. The following information applies to men and to people who are planning to become pregnant.

- **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**: It is very important to avoid pregnancy while you are taking Acitretin and for 3 years after stopping Acitretin. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

- **Driving**: Acitretin may affect your ability to drive. You may not notice some changes in your mood.

4. Possible side effects

Acitretin may cause side effects. Some of these are serious, but others are not. If any of the side effects worry you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. If you experience any side effect, you may need to stop taking Acitretin. The most common side effects are:

- Hair loss is a very common side effect of Acitretin.
- Changes in bone growth. You may be taller or shorter than you would otherwise have been.
- Changes in the way fat is stored in your body.
- Changes in the way the liver functions.
- Changes in the way the eyes work.
- Changes in blood tests.
• a serious condition which causes the small
• impaired hearing, ringing in the ear (tinnitus),
• infection of the vagina (also known as candida or thrush),
• bone pain, changes in bone growth.

• increased blood pressure in the skull,

Very rare

• fissures, cracks or fine linear scars in the skin
• inflammation of the liver,
• blurred vision,
• dizziness,
• swelling of hands, ankles and feet.

Other possible side effects:

Your doctor may want to check you regularly to find
• You feel any aches and pains in your muscles, bones
• Feeling or being sick.
• A severe headache.

away if you experience the following side effects:

If someone else takes your Acitretin Capsules by
stop taking Acitretin. Always contact your doctor before
• If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you
• If you forget to take Acitretin

a doctor or go to a hospital straight away. Take the
If you take more Acitretin than you should
• •

1. Possible side effects

Very common

• dryness or inflammation of the lips, which may be
• dry mouth, thirst,
• dry, irritated or runny nose, nose bleeding,
• dry, irritated or swollen eyes, which may lead to

Common

• changes in how the liver is working (shown by blood
• hair loss, peeling of the skin from the palms of hands

Rare

• raised patches (hives),
• thinning of the skin,
• may bleed easily (pyogenic granuloma), scaling or

Very rare

• general unwell feeling, drowsiness,
• improved or worsened glucose tolerance in diabetic
• loss of eyelashes or eyebrows (madarosis),
• cracks or scaring at the corners of the mouth,
• a serious skin reaction with symptoms such as

1. Possible side effects

Very common

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Common

• changes in the sound of the voice (dysphonia).
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1. Possible side effects

Very common

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Common

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Very common

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