Stilnoct is used for temporary sleep problems in adults that are causing you severe distress or that are affecting your everyday life. This includes sleep problems in adults such as:
- Difficulty falling asleep
- Waking in the middle of the night
- Waking too early

Your doctor will identify your sleep problem wherever possible and the underlying factors before prescribing this medicine for you. The failure of your sleep problems to stop after a 7-14 day course of treatment may indicate you have an underlying disorder, your doctor will assess you at regular intervals.

Stilnoct is not meant to be used every day for long periods of time. Ask your doctor for advice if you are unsure.

Do not take Stilnoct if:
- You are allergic (hypersensitive) to zolpidem tartrate or any of the other ingredients of Stilnoct (listed in section 6).
- Your lungs do not work properly (respiratory failure).
- You have severe liver problems.
- You have a problem where you stop breathing for short periods at night (sleep apnoea).
- You have a problem that causes severe muscle weakness (myasthenia gravis).
- You have been told by a doctor that you have a mental illness (psychosis).
- You are under the age of 18.

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

Next-day psychomotor impairment (see also 'Driving and using machines')
The day after taking Stilnoct, the risk of psychomotor impairment, including impaired driving ability may be increased if:
- You take this medicine less than 8 hours before performing activities that require your alertness.
- You take a higher dose than the recommended dose.
- You take Stilnoct while you are already taking other central nervous system depressants or another medicine that increases Stilnoct in your blood, or while drinking alcohol, or while taking illicit substances.

Take the single intake immediately at bedtime. Do not take another dose during the same night.
**Other medicines and Stilnoct**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. This includes medicines you buy without a prescription, including herbal medicines. This is because Stilnoct can affect the way some other medicines work. Also some medicines can affect the way Stilnoct works.

**Stilnoct may increase the effect of the following medicines:**

While taking Stilnoct with the following medicines, drowsiness and next-day psychomotor impairment effects, including impaired driving ability, may be increased.

- Medicines for some mental health problems (antipsychotics).
- Medicines for sleep problems (hypnotics).
- Medicines to calm or reduce anxiety.
- Medicines for depression.
- Medicines for moderate to severe pain (narcotic analgesics).
- Medicines for epilepsy (anti-convulsants).
- Medicines used for anaesthesia.
- Medicines for hay fever, rashes or other allergies that can make you sleepy (sedative antihistamines).

While taking Stilnoct with antidepressants including bupropion, desipramine, fluoxetine, sertraline and venlafaxine, you may see things that are not real (hallucinations). It is not recommended to take Stilnoct with fluvoxamine, ciprofloxacin or St John’s Wort (a herbal medicine) used for mood swings and depression.

**Risks from concomitant use with opioids**

Concomitant use of Stilnoct and opioids (strong pain killers, medicines for substitution therapy and some cough medicines) increases the risk of drowsiness, difficulties in breathing (respiratory depression), coma and may be life-threatening. Because of this, concomitant use should only be considered when other treatment options are not possible. However if your doctor does prescribe Stilnoct together with opioids the dosage and duration of concomitant treatment should be limited by your doctor.

Please tell your doctor about all opioid medicines you are taking, and follow your doctor’s dosage recommendation closely. It could be helpful to inform friends or relatives to be aware of sign and symptoms stated above. Contact your doctor when experiencing such symptoms.

**The following medicines can increase the chance of you getting side effects when taken with Stilnoct:**

- Some antibiotics such as clarithromycin or erythromycin.
- Some medicines for fungal infections such as ketoconazole and itraconazole.
- Ritonavir (a protease inhibitor) – for HIV infections.

**The following medicines can make Stilnoct work less well:**

- Some medicines for epilepsy such as carbamazepine, phenobarbital or phenytoin.
- Rifampicin (an antibiotic) – for infections.

**Stilnoct contains lactose**

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, talk to your doctor before taking this medicine.

**Driving and using machines**

Stilnoct has major influence on the ability to drive and use machines such as ‘sleep-driving’. On the day after taking Stilnoct (as with other hypnotic medicines), you should be aware that:

- You may feel drowsy, sleepy, dizzy or confused.
- Your quick decision-making may be longer.
- Your vision may be blurred or double.
- You may be less alert.

A period of at least 8 hours is recommended between taking Stilnoct and driving, using machinery and working at heights to minimize the above listed effects.

Do not drink alcohol or take other psychoactive substances while you are taking Stilnoct as it can increase the above listed effects.

**Stilnoct contains lactose**

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, talk to your doctor before taking this medicine.

**3. How to take Stilnoct**

Always take Stilnoct exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

**Taking this medicine**

- Take this medicine by mouth.
- Swallow the tablet whole with a drink of water.
- The recommended dose per 24 hours is 10mg of Stilnoct. A lower dose may be prescribed to some patients.
- Stilnoct should be taken as a single intake just before bedtime.
- Make sure you have a period of at least 8 hours after taking this medicine before performing activities that require your alertness.
- Do not exceed 10mg per 24 hours.
• The usual length of treatment is 2 days to 4 weeks.

How much to take

Adults
• The usual dose is two Stilnoct tablets (10mg) just before bedtime.

Elderly
• The usual dose is one tablet (5mg) just before bedtime.

Patients with liver problems
• The usual starting dose is one tablet (5mg) just before bedtime. Your doctor may decide to increase this to two tablets (10mg) if it is safe to do so.

Children and adolescents
Stilnoct should not be used in people under 18 years old.

If you take more Stilnoct than you should
If you take more Stilnoct than you should, tell a doctor or go to a hospital casualty department straight away. Take the medicine pack with you. This is so the doctor knows what you have taken.

Taking too much Stilnoct can be very dangerous.
The following effects may happen:
• Feeling drowsy, confused, sleeping deeply and possibly falling into a fatal coma.

If you forget to take Stilnoct
Stilnoct must only be taken at bedtime. If you forget to take your tablet at bedtime, then you should not take it at any other time, otherwise you may feel drowsy, dizzy and confused during the day. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

If you stop taking Stilnoct suddenly, your sleep problems may come back and you may get a ‘withdrawal effect’. If this happens you may get some of the effects listed below.

See a doctor straight away if you get any of the following effects:
• Feeling anxious, restless, irritable or confused
• Headache
• Faster heartbeat or uneven heartbeat (palpitations)
• Nightmares, seeing or hearing things that are not real (hallucinations)
• Being more sensitive to light, noise and touch than normal
• Relaxed grip on reality
• Feeling distant from your body or feeling ‘puppet-like’
• Numbness and tingling in your hands and feet
• Aching muscles
• Stomach problems
• Sleep problems come back worse than before
• Fits (seizures)

If you stop taking Stilnoct suddenly, your sleep problems may come back and you may get a ‘withdrawal effect’. If this happens you may get some of the effects listed below.

See a doctor straight away if this happens you may get some of the effects listed below.

The following effects may happen:
• Feeling drowsy, confused, sleeping deeply and possibly falling into a fatal coma.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Stop taking Stilnoct and see a doctor or go to a hospital straight away if:
• You have an allergic reaction. These signs may include: an itchy, lumpy rash (hives) or nettle rash (urticaria), swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you have any of the following side effects:

Common side effects (may affect less than 1 in 10 people)
• Poor memory while taking Stilnoct (amnesia) and strange behaviour during this time.

This is more likely to affect you in the few hours after you take this medicine. By having 7-8 hours sleep after taking Stilnoct, this is less likely to cause you a problem
• Sleeping problems that get worse after taking this medicine
• Seeing or hearing things that are not real (hallucinations)

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)
• Blurred eyesight or ‘seeing double’

Rare side effects (may affect less than 1,000 people)
• Being less aware of your environment
• Falling, especially in the elderly

Sleep-driving and other sleep-related behaviour
There have been some reports of people doing things while asleep that they do not remember when waking up after taking a sleeping medicine. This includes sleep-driving, sleepwalking, preparing and eating food, and having sex. Alcohol and some medicines for depression or anxiety can increase the chance that this serious effect will happen.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of the following side effects get serious or lasts longer than a few days:

Common side effects (may affect less than 1 in 10 people)
• Diarrhoea
• Feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting)
• Abdominal pain
• Respiratory infection
• Headache
• Feeling tired or agitated
• Nightmares
• Depression
• Feeling dizzy
• Feeling drowsy or sleepy
• Back pain

Uncommon side effects (may affect less than 1 in 100 people)
• Itching skin or skin rash
• Excessive sweating
• Feeling restless, aggressive, confused or irritable
• Feeling overly happy/confident (euphoric)
• Unusual skin sensations such as numbness, tingling, pricking, burning or creeping on the skin (paraesthesia)
• Tremor
• Sleepwalking (see ‘Sleep-driving and other sleep-related behaviour’)
• Lack of concentration
• Speech problems
• Blurred vision
• Changes in the amount of liver enzymes – shown up in the results of blood tests
• Changes in appetite or behaviour concerning appetite
• Muscle pain
• Muscle spasms
• Limp or weak muscles

Rare side effects (may affect less than 1 in 1,000 people)
• Itchy, lumpy rash (urticaria)
• Thinking things that are not true (delusions)
• Changes in sex drive (libido)
• You have discoloration of the skin or eyes, pain in the abdomen (stomach) or a bloated feeling, severe itching, pale or bloody stools, extreme weakness, nausea or loss of appetite. This could be caused by an infection or injury to the liver
• An illness where removal of bile from the liver is blocked (cholestasis). Signs include jaundice, rash or fever and the colour of your water (urine) becomes darker
• Changes in the way you walk

Very rare side effects (may affect less than 1 in 10,000 people)
• Any changes of vision, in particular loss of vision
• Slower breathing (respiratory depression)
• Becoming dependent on Stilnoct

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from available data)
• A feeling of being out of touch with reality and being unable to think or judge clearly (psychosis)
• Feeling angry or showing unusual behaviour
• Needing to take more Stilnoct in order to sleep

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.
By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Stilnoct
Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
Store below 30°C. Keep the blister strip in the carton in order to protect from moisture.
Do not use Stilnoct after the expiry date which is stated on the carton or blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information
What Stilnoct 5mg film-coated Tablets contain
• Each tablet of Stilnoct contains 5mg of the active substance zolpidem tartrate.
• Other ingredients are lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, hypromellose, titanium dioxide (E171), sodium starch glycollate, magnesium stearate and macrogol 400.