

## Package leaflet: Information for the user

**Certican® 0.25 mg tablets**

**Certican® 0.75 mg tablets**

everolimus

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

### **What is in this leaflet:**

1. What Certican is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Certican
3. How to take Certican
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Certican
6. Contents of the pack and other information

### **1. What Certican is and what it is used for**

The active substance of Certican is everolimus.

Everolimus belongs to a group of medicines called immunosuppressants. It is used in adults to prevent the body's immune system from rejecting a transplanted kidney, heart or liver.

Certican is used together with other medicines, such as ciclosporin for kidney and heart transplantation, tacrolimus for liver transplantation, and corticosteroids.

### **2. What you need to know before you take Certican**

#### **Do not take Certican**

- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to everolimus or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to sirolimus.

**If any of the above applies to you, tell your doctor and do not take Certican.**

#### **Warnings and precautions**

##### **Talk to your doctor before taking Certican:**

- Medicines that suppress the immune system like Certican reduce your body's ability to fight against infections. It is advisable to consult your doctor or transplant centre if you have a fever or generally feel unwell, or have local symptoms such as coughing or a burning sensation when urinating that are severe or persistent over several days. Consult your doctor or transplant centre right away if you feel confused, have problems speaking, memory loss, a headache, impaired vision or seizures, as these may be symptoms of a rare but very serious condition called progressive multiple leukoencephalopathy (PML).
- If you have had recent major surgery, or if you still have an unhealed wound following surgery, Certican may increase the risk of wound-healing problems.
- Medicines that suppress the immune system like Certican increase the risk of developing

cancers, particularly of the skin and the lymphoid system. Therefore, you should limit your exposure to sunlight and UV light by wearing appropriate protective clothing and frequently applying a sunscreen with a high protection factor.

- Your doctor will monitor your kidney function, the amounts of fats (lipids) and sugar in your blood as well as the amount of proteins in your urine.
- If you have liver problems or have ever had a disease which may have affected your liver, please tell your doctor. Your doctor may need to modify the dose of Certican you are taking.
- If you experience respiratory symptoms (e.g. coughing, difficulty in breathing and wheezing), please inform your doctor. Your doctor may decide whether and how you need to continue Certican, and/or whether you need to receive other medicines to resolve this condition.
- Certican may reduce sperm production in men, thereby reducing the ability to father children. The effect is generally reversible. Male patients wanting to father children should discuss their treatment with their physician.

### **Older people (65 years and over)**

There is limited experience with the administration of Certican in elderly people.

### **Children and adolescents**

Certican should not be used in children and adolescents with a transplanted kidney, heart or liver.

### **Other medicines and Certican**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Certain medicines may affect the way in which Certican works in the body. It is very important that you tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- immunosuppressive medicines other than ciclosporin, tacrolimus or corticosteroids.
- antibiotics, such as rifampicin, rifabutin, clarithromycin, erythromycin or telithromycin.
- antiviral medicines, such as ritonavir, efavirenz, nevirapine, nelfinavir, indinavir or amprenavir, which are used to treat HIV infection.
- medicines used to treat fungal infections, such as voriconazole, fluconazole, ketoconazole or itraconazole.
- medicines used to treat epilepsy, such as phenytoin, phenobarbital or carbamazepine.
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure or heart problems, such as verapamil, nifedipine or diltiazem.
- dronedarone, a medicine used to help regulate your heart beat.
- medicines used to lower blood cholesterol, such as atorvastatin, pravastatin or fibrates.
- medicines used to treat acute seizures, or used as a sedative before or during surgery or other medical procedures, such as midazolam.
- cannabidiol (uses amongst others include treatment of seizures).
- octreotide, a medicine used to treat acromegaly, a rare hormonal disorder that usually occurs in middle-aged adults.
- imatinib, a medicine used to inhibit the growth of abnormal cells.
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), a herbal medicine used to treat depression.
- If you need to have a vaccination, talk to your doctor first.

### **Certican with food and drink**

The presence of food can affect how much Certican is absorbed. In order to keep constant levels in your body, you should always take Certican in the same way. You should either always take it with food, or always on an empty stomach.

Do not take Certican with grapefruit juice or grapefruit. They affect how Certican works in the body.

**Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility**

If you are pregnant, do not take Certican unless your doctor thinks it is absolutely necessary. If you are a woman and you could get pregnant, you should use an effective method of contraception during treatment with Certican and for 8 weeks after stopping treatment.

If you think you may be pregnant, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking Certican.

You should not breast-feed while taking Certican. It is not known whether Certican passes into breast milk.

Certican may have an impact on male fertility.

**Driving and using machines**

Certican has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

**Certican contains lactose**

Certican tablets contain lactose. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

**3. How to take Certican**

Your doctor will decide exactly what dose of Certican you should take and when you should take it.

Always take Certican exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

**How much to take**

- The usual starting dose is 1.5 mg/day in kidney and heart transplantation and 2.0 mg/day in liver transplantation.
- This is usually divided into two doses, one in the morning and one in the evening.

**How to take Certican**

Certican should only be taken by mouth.

Do not crush the tablets.

Swallow the tablets whole with a glass of water.

You should take the first dose of this medicine as early as possible after kidney and heart transplantation and approximately four weeks after liver transplantation.

You should take the tablets together with ciclosporin for microemulsion in kidney and heart transplantation, and with tacrolimus in liver transplantation.

Do not switch from Certican tablets to Certican dispersible tablets without first telling your doctor.

**Monitoring during your treatment with Certican**

Your doctor may adjust your dose depending on how much Certican there is in your blood and depending on how well you respond to the treatment. Your doctor will perform regular blood tests to measure the amount of everolimus and ciclosporin in your blood. Your doctor will also carefully monitor your kidney function, blood lipids and blood sugar, as well as the amount of proteins in your urine.

**If you take more Certican than you should**

If you take more of this medicine than you should, talk to your doctor immediately.

**If you forget to take Certican**

If you have forgotten to take your dose of Certican, take it as soon as you remember and then take the next dose at the usual time. Ask your doctor for advice. Do not take a double dose to make up for a

forgotten tablet.

### **If you stop taking Certican**

Do not stop taking the tablets unless your doctor tells you to. You will need to take this medicine for as long as you need to have immunosuppressants to prevent the rejection of your transplanted kidney, heart or liver. If you stop taking Certican, you will have a greater risk of your body rejecting the transplanted organ.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

## **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Because you take Certican together with other medicines, it is not always clear whether the side effects are caused by Certican or by the other medicines.

### **The following side effects need immediate medical attention:**

- infections,
- inflammation of the lungs,
- allergic reactions,
- fever and bruising under the skin that may appear as red dots, with or without unexplained tiredness, confusion, yellowing of the skin or eyes, reduced urine output (thrombotic microangiopathy, haemolytic uraemic syndrome).

Should you develop any of the following:

- persistent or worsening lung/breathing symptoms such as coughing, difficulty breathing, or wheezing,
- fever, generally feeling unwell, chest or abdominal pain, chills, burning sensation when urinating,
- swelling of face, lips, tongue or throat,
- difficulty swallowing,
- spontaneous bruising or bleeding for no obvious reason,
- rash,
- pain, unusual warmth, swelling or oozing from the site of surgery

you should stop taking Certican and **tell your doctor straight away**.

### **Other reported side effects include:**

#### **Very common** (*may affect more than 1 in 10 patients*)

- infections (viral, bacterial and fungal infections),
- lower respiratory tract infections, such as lung infections, including pneumonia
- upper respiratory tract infections, such as inflammation of the pharynx, and common cold,
- urinary tract infections,
- anaemia (reduced red blood cell count),
- low levels of white blood cells, leading to a higher risk of infection, reduced blood platelet count, which can lead to bleeding and/or bruising underneath the skin,
- high level of fats (lipids, cholesterol and triglycerides) in the blood,
- onset of diabetes (high level of sugar in the blood),
- reduced level of potassium in the blood,
- anxiety,
- problems falling asleep (insomnia),

- headache,
- fluid collection in the sac around the heart, which if severe, can decrease the heart's ability to pump blood,
- high blood pressure,
- venous thrombosis (blockage of a major vein by a blood clot),
- fluid collection on the lungs and in the chest cavity, which, if severe, could make you breathless,
- coughing,
- breathlessness,
- diarrhoea,
- feeling sick (nausea),
- being sick (vomiting),
- stomach (abdominal) pain,
- general pain,
- fever,
- accumulation of fluid in the tissues,
- abnormal wound healing.

**Common** (*may affect up to 1 in 10 patients*)

- blood poisoning,
- wound infection,
- cancers and benign tumours,
- skin cancer,
- kidney damage with low blood platelets and low red blood cell counts, with or without a rash (thrombocytopenic purpura/haemolytic uraemic syndrome),
- breakdown of red blood cells,
- low levels of red blood cells and platelets,
- fast heart beat,
- nose bleeds,
- reduced numbers of blood cells (symptoms may include weakness, bruising and frequent infections),
- clotting in the blood vessels of the kidney, which may result in graft loss mostly within the first 30 days after kidney transplantation,
- bleeding disorders,
- cyst containing lymph fluid,
- pain in the mouth or throat,
- inflammation of the pancreas,
- mouth sores,
- acne,
- hives (urticaria) and other allergic symptoms, such as swelling of the face or throat (angiooedema),
- rash,
- joint pain,
- muscle pain,
- protein in the urine,
- kidney disorders,
- impotence,
- hernia at the site of surgery,
- abnormal liver test results,
- menstrual disorders (including absent or heavy periods).

**Uncommon** (*may affect up to 1 in 100 patients*):

- cancer of the lymph tissue (lymphoma/post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder),

- low levels of testosterone,
- inflammation of the lungs,
- inflammation of the liver,
- jaundice,
- ovarian cysts.

#### **Other side effects:**

Other side effects have occurred in a small number of people, but their exact frequency is unknown:

- abnormal accumulation of protein in the lungs (symptoms may include persistent dry cough, fatigue and difficulty breathing),
- inflammation of blood vessels,
- swelling, feeling of heaviness or tightness, pain, limited mobility of body parts (this could occur anywhere in the body and is a potential sign of an abnormal build-up of fluid in soft tissue due to a blockage in the lymphatic system, also known as lymphoedema),
- severe rash with skin swelling,
- low level of iron in blood.

If you have concerns regarding any of these effects, **tell your doctor.**

There may also be side effects of which you are not aware, such as abnormal results of laboratory tests, including tests of kidney function. This means that your doctor will perform blood tests to monitor any changes to your kidneys during your treatment with Certican.

#### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly (see details below). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

#### **United Kingdom**

Yellow Card Scheme

Website: [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store

### **5. How to store Certican**

- Keep Certican out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use Certican after the expiry date which is stated on the carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- This medicine does not require any special temperature storage conditions.
- Store the blister packs in the original carton in order to protect from light and moisture.
- Do not use this medicine if you notice that the pack is damaged or shows signs of tampering.
- 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. Content of the pack and other information**

#### **What Certican contains**

- The active substance is everolimus. Each tablet contains 0.25 or 0.75 mg everolimus.
- The other ingredients are:
  - Certican 0.25 mg tablets: butylhydroxytoluene (E321), magnesium stearate, lactose monohydrate (2 mg), hypromellose, crospovidone and anhydrous lactose (51 mg).

- Certican 0.75 mg tablets: butylhydroxytoluene (E321), magnesium stearate, lactose monohydrate (7 mg), hypromellose, crospovidone and anhydrous lactose (112 mg).

**What Certican looks like and contents of the pack**

- Certican 0.25 mg tablets are white to yellowish, marbled, round, flat tablets of 6 mm, engraved “C” on one side and “NVR” on the other.
- Certican 0.75 mg tablets are white to yellowish, marbled, round, flat tablets of 8.5 mm, engraved “CL” on one side and “NVR” on the other.

Certican tablets are supplied in packs containing 50, 60, 100 or 250 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

**Marketing Authorisation Holder:**

Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Limited,  
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