

## Baricitinib (Olumiant)

### Patient Information Sheet

#### Why am I prescribed Baricitinib?

Baricitinib is used to treat adults with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis, an inflammatory disease of the joints. Baricitinib can be used alone or together with some other medicines.

Baricitinib helps to reduce pain, stiffness and swelling in your joints, it helps to slow damage to the bone.

#### When do I take Baricitinib?

Baricitinib is for oral use. You should swallow your tablet with a drink of water. You can take the tablets either with or without food. It can be taken at anytime of the day however, you may find it easier to take it at the same time every day.

#### What dose should I take?

Your doctor will advise you what dose you should be on.

The usual dose is 4 mg once a day. You may be given a lower dose of 2 mg once a day, particularly if you are over 75 years old, have reduced kidney functions or if you have an increased risk of infections.

#### What if I forget to take the dose?

If you forget a dose just take the next dose as usual. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

#### What are the possible side effects?

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Some may be serious and need medical attention.

The most common side effects of baricitinab are risk of having infection including chest infections and nausea. Attend your doctors if you develop fever, cough, shortness of breath or flu like symptoms.

Possible side effects:

- If you develop shingles (a painful blistering rash) contact your doctor for review
- Signs of serious infections include
  - fever and chills
  - cough
  - skin blisters
- Risk of having blood clots in the veins of your legs or lungs. Contact your doctor if you get
  - a painful or swollen leg
  - chest pain
  - shortness of breath

- All patients are tested for tuberculosis and hepatitis B and C before starting on baricitinab. You may need treatment for tuberculosis if you test positive for tuberculosis. You can still have baricitinib once you start the treatment for tuberculosis. Your doctor will decide about the timing for the start of the treatment.
- Risk of derangement in blood count including, Red cells, white cells, liver function, cholesterol. Attend your gp for regular blood monitoring while on baricitinab.

### **Do I need any special checks while on Baricitinab?**

Your doctor should perform blood tests before you start taking Baricitinab, monthly for the first 3 months and then every 3 months, to determine if you have a low white blood cell (neutrophil or lymphocyte) count, or a low red blood cell count (anemia).

You should not receive Baricitinab if your white blood cell (neutrophil or lymphocyte) count or red blood cell count is too low. If needed, your doctor may interrupt your Baricitinab treatment to reduce the risk of infection (white blood cell counts) or anemia (red blood cell counts).

Your doctor should test your cholesterol levels 8 weeks after you start receiving Baricitinab. Your doctor should perform liver tests periodically.

### **Can I take other medicines along with Baricitinab?**

Consult with your pharmacist before taking any other medication.

### **Can I have vaccinations while on Baricitinab?**

The flu and pneumococcal vaccine are safe to take, however, you should not be given certain (live) vaccines while using Baricitinib

### **Is Baricitinab safe to use in pregnancy or breastfeeding?**

You should not take baricitinab if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. While taking baricitinab use of appropriate contraception is advised.

### **Contact Details**

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### **Always remember!**

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Please note that this information leaflet does not list all the side effects

Always read the drug information leaflet which comes with your medicine.