

**B. PACKAGE LEAFLET**

## Package leaflet: Information for the patient

**Afinitor 2.5 mg tablets**  
**Afinitor 5 mg tablets**  
**Afinitor 10 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 Afinitor is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Afinitor
3. How to take Afinitor
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Afinitor
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### 1. What Afinitor is and what it is used for

Afinitor is an anticancer medicine containing the active substance everolimus. Everolimus reduces the blood supply to the tumour and slows down the growth and spread of cancer cells.

Afinitor is used to treat adult patients with:

- hormone receptor-positive advanced breast cancer in postmenopausal women, in whom other treatments (so called “non-steroidal aromatase inhibitors”) no longer keep the disease under control. It is given together with a medicine called exemestane, a steroidal aromatase inhibitor, which is used for hormonal anticancer therapy.
- advanced tumours called neuroendocrine tumours that originate from the stomach, bowels, lung or pancreas. It is given if the tumours are inoperable and do not overproduce specific hormones or other related natural substances.
- advanced kidney cancer (advanced renal cell carcinoma), where other treatments (so-called “VEGF-targeted therapy”) have not helped stop your disease.

#### 2. What you need to know before you take Afinitor

Afinitor will only be prescribed for you by a doctor with experience in cancer treatment. Follow all the doctor’s instructions carefully. They may differ from the general information contained in this leaflet. If you have any questions about Afinitor or why it has been prescribed for you, ask your doctor.

#### Do not take Afinitor

- **if you are allergic** to everolimus, to related substances such as sirolimus or temsirolimus, or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

If you think you may be allergic, ask your doctor for advice.

## **Warnings and precautions**

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

- if you have any problems with your liver or if you have ever had any disease which may have affected your liver. If this is the case, your doctor may need to prescribe a different dose of Afinitor.
- if you have diabetes (high level of sugar in your blood). Afinitor may increase blood sugar levels and worsen diabetes mellitus. This may result in the need for insulin and/or oral antidiabetic agent therapy. Tell your doctor if you experience any excessive thirst or increased frequency of urination.
- if you need to receive a vaccine while taking Afinitor.
- if you have high cholesterol. Afinitor may elevate cholesterol and/or other blood fats.
- if you have had recent major surgery, or if you still have an unhealed wound following surgery. Afinitor may increase the risk of problems with wound healing.
- if you have an infection. It may be necessary to treat your infection before starting Afinitor.
- if you have previously had hepatitis B, because this may be reactivated during treatment with Afinitor (see section 4 'Possible side effects').
- if you have received or are about to receive radiation therapy.

Afinitor may also:

- weaken your immune system. Therefore, you may be at risk of getting an infection while you are taking Afinitor. If you have fever or other signs of an infection, consult with your doctor. Some infections may be severe and may have fatal consequences.
- impact your kidney function. Therefore, your doctor will monitor your kidney function while you are taking Afinitor.
- cause shortness of breath, cough and fever.
- cause mouth ulcers and sores to develop. Your doctor might need to interrupt or discontinue your treatment with Afinitor. You might need treatment with a mouthwash, gel or other products. Some mouthwashes and gels can make ulcers worse, so do not try anything without checking with your doctor first. Your doctor might restart treatment with Afinitor at the same dose or at a lower dose.
- cause complications of radiation therapy. Severe complications of radiotherapy (such as shortness of breath, nausea, diarrhoea, skin rashes and soreness in mouth, gums and throat), including fatal cases, have been observed in some patients who were taking everolimus at the same time as radiation therapy or who were taking everolimus shortly after they had radiation therapy. In addition, so-called radiation recall syndrome (comprising skin redness or lung inflammation at the site of previous radiation therapy) has been reported in patients who had radiation therapy in the past.  
Tell your doctor if you are planning to have radiation therapy in the near future, or if you have had radiation therapy before.

**Tell your doctor** if you experience these symptoms.

You will have regular blood tests during treatment. These will check the amount of blood cells (white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets) in your body to see if Afinitor is having an unwanted effect on these cells. Blood tests will also be carried out to check your kidney function (level of creatinine) and liver function (level of transaminases) and your blood sugar and cholesterol levels. This is because these can also be affected by Afinitor.

### **Children and adolescents**

Afinitor is not to be used in children or adolescents (age below 18 years).

### **Other medicines and Afinitor**

Afinitor may affect the way some other medicines work. If you are taking other medicines at the same time as Afinitor, your doctor may need to change the dose of Afinitor or the other medicines.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

The following may increase the risk of side effects with Afinitor:

- ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, or fluconazole and other antifungals used to treat fungal infections.
- clarithromycin, telithromycin or erythromycin, antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections.
- ritonavir and other medicines used to treat HIV infection/AIDS.
- verapamil or diltiazem, used to treat heart conditions or high blood pressure.
- dronedarone, a medicine used to help regulate your heart beat.
- ciclosporin, a medicine used to stop the body from rejecting organ transplants.
- imatinib, used to inhibit the growth of abnormal cells.
- angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors (such as ramipril) used to treat high blood pressure or other cardiovascular problems.
- nefazodone, used to treat depression.

The following may reduce the effectiveness of Afinitor:

- rifampicin, used to treat tuberculosis (TB).
- efavirenz or nevirapine, used to treat HIV infection/AIDS.
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), a herbal product used to treat depression and other conditions.
- dexamethasone, a corticosteroid used to treat a wide variety of conditions including inflammatory or immune problems.
- phenytoin, carbamazepine or phenobarbital and other anti-epileptics used to stop seizures or fits.

These medicines should be avoided during your treatment with Afinitor. If you are taking any of them, your doctor may switch you to a different medicine, or may change your dose of Afinitor.

### **Afinitor with food and drink**

Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice while you are on Afinitor. It may increase the amount of Afinitor in the blood, possibly to a harmful level.

### **Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility**

#### Pregnancy

Afinitor could harm your unborn baby and is not recommended during pregnancy. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or think that you may be pregnant. Your doctor will discuss with you whether you should take this medicine during your pregnancy.

Women who could potentially become pregnant should use highly effective contraception during treatment and for up to 8 weeks after ending treatment. If, despite these measures, you think you may have become pregnant, ask your doctor for advice **before** taking any more Afinitor.

#### Breast-feeding

Afinitor could harm your breast-fed baby. You should not breast-feed during treatment and for 2 weeks after the last dose of Afinitor. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding.

#### Female fertility

Absence of menstrual periods (amenorrhoea) has been observed in some female patients receiving Afinitor.

Afinitor may have an impact on female fertility. Talk to your doctor if you wish to have children.

### Male fertility

Afinitor may affect male fertility. Talk to your doctor if you wish to father a child.

### **Driving and using machines**

If you feel unusually tired (fatigue is a very common side effect), take special care when driving or using machines.

### **Afinitor contains lactose**

Afinitor contains lactose (milk sugar). If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

## **3. How to take Afinitor**

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

The recommended dose is 10 mg, taken once a day. Your doctor will tell you how many tablets of Afinitor to take.

If you have liver problems, your doctor may start you on a lower dose of Afinitor (2.5, 5 or 7.5 mg per day).

If you experience certain side effects while you are taking Afinitor (see section 4), your doctor may lower your dose or stop treatment, either for a short time or permanently.

Take Afinitor once a day, at about the same time every day, consistently either with or without food.

Swallow the tablet(s) whole with a glass of water. Do not chew or crush the tablets.

### **If you take more Afinitor than you should**

- If you have taken too much Afinitor, or if someone else accidentally takes your tablets, see a doctor or go to a hospital immediately. Urgent treatment may be necessary.
- Take the carton and this leaflet, so that the doctor knows what has been taken.

### **If you forget to take Afinitor**

If you miss a dose, take your next dose as scheduled. Do not take a double dose to make up for the forgotten tablets.

### **If you stop taking Afinitor**

Do not stop taking Afinitor unless your doctor tells you to.

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.

STOP taking Afinitor and seek medical help immediately if you experience any of the following signs of an allergic reaction:

- difficulty breathing or swallowing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat
- severe itching of the skin, with a red rash or raised bumps

**Serious side effects of Afinitor include:**

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

- Increased temperature, chills (signs of infection)
- Fever, coughing, difficulty breathing, wheezing (signs of inflammation of the lung, also known as pneumonitis)

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

- Excessive thirst, high urine output, increased appetite with weight loss, tiredness (signs of diabetes)
- Bleeding (haemorrhage), for example in the gut wall
- Severely decreased urine output (sign of kidney failure)

**Uncommon** (*may affect up to 1 in 100 people*)

- Fever, skin rash, joint pain and inflammation, as well as tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, jaundice (yellowing of the skin), pain in the upper right abdomen, pale stools, dark urine (may be signs of hepatitis B reactivation)
- Breathlessness, difficulty breathing when lying down, swelling of the feet or legs (signs of heart failure)
- Swelling and/or pain in one of the legs, usually in the calf, redness or warm skin in the affected area (signs of blockade of a blood vessel (vein) in the legs caused by blood clotting)
- Sudden onset of shortness of breath, chest pain or coughing up blood (potential signs of pulmonary embolism, a condition that occurs when one or more arteries in your lungs become blocked)
- Severely decreased urine output, swelling in the legs, feeling confused, pain in the back (signs of sudden kidney failure)
- Rash, itching, hives, difficulty breathing or swallowing, dizziness (signs of serious allergic reaction, also known as hypersensitivity)

**Rare** (*may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people*)

- Shortness of breath or rapid breath (signs of acute respiratory distress syndrome)

**If you experience any of these side effects, tell your doctor immediately as this might have life-threatening consequences.**

**Other possible side effects of Afinitor include:**

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

- High level of sugar in the blood (hyperglycaemia)
- Loss of appetite
- Disturbed taste (dysgeusia)
- Headache
- Nose bleeds (epistaxis)
- Cough
- Mouth ulcers
- Upset stomach including feeling sick (nausea) or diarrhoea
- Skin rash
- Itching (pruritus)
- Feeling weak or tired
- Tiredness, breathlessness, dizziness, pale skin, signs of low level of red blood cells (anaemia)
- Swelling of arms, hands, feet, ankles or other part of the body (signs of oedema)
- Weight loss
- High level of lipids (fats) in the blood (hypercholesterolaemia)

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

- Spontaneous bleeding or bruising (signs of low level of platelets, also known as thrombocytopenia)
- Breathlessness (dyspnoea)
- Thirst, low urine output, dark urine, dry flushed skin, irritability (signs of dehydration)
- Trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- Headache, dizziness (sign of high blood pressure, also known as hypertension)
- Swelling of part or all of your arm (including fingers) or leg (including toes), feeling of heaviness, restricted movement, discomfort (possible symptoms of lymphoedema)
- Fever, sore throat, mouth ulcers due to infections (signs of low level of white blood cells, leukopenia, lymphopenia and/or neutropenia)
- Fever
- Inflammation of the inner lining of the mouth, stomach, gut
- Dry mouth
- Heartburn (dyspepsia)
- Being sick (vomiting)
- Difficulty in swallowing (dysphagia)
- Abdominal pain
- Acne
- Rash and pain on the palms of your hands or soles of your feet (hand-foot syndrome)
- Reddening of the skin (erythema)
- Joint pain
- Pain in the mouth
- Menstruation disorders such as irregular periods
- High level of lipids (fats) in the blood (hyperlipidaemia, raised triglycerides)
- Low level of potassium in the blood (hypokalaemia)
- Low level of phosphate in the blood (hypophosphataemia)
- Low level of calcium in the blood (hypocalcaemia)
- Dry skin, skin exfoliation, skin lesions
- Nail disorders, breaking of your nails
- Mild loss of hair
- Abnormal results of liver blood tests (increased alanine and aspartate aminotransferase)
- Abnormal results of renal blood tests (increased creatinine)
- Swelling of the eyelid
- Protein in the urine

**Uncommon** (*may affect up to 1 in 100 people*)

- Weakness, spontaneous bleeding or bruising and frequent infections with signs such as fever, chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers (signs of low level of blood cells, also known as pancytopenia)
- Loss of sense of taste (ageusia)
- Coughing up blood (haemoptysis)
- Menstruation disorders such as absence of periods (amenorrhoea)
- Passing urine more often during daytime
- Chest pain
- Abnormal wound healing
- Hot flushes
- Discharge from the eye with itching and redness, pink eye or red eye (conjunctivitis)

**Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Tiredness, breathlessness, dizziness, pale skin (signs of low level of red blood cells, possibly due to a type of anaemia called pure red cell aplasia)
- Swelling of the face, around the eyes, mouth, and inside the mouth and/or throat, as well as the tongue and difficulty breathing or swallowing (also known as angioedema), may be signs of an allergic reaction

**Not known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- Reaction at the site of previous radiation therapy, e.g. skin redness or lung inflammation (so-called radiation recall syndrome)
- Worsening of radiation treatment side effects

**If these side effects get severe please tell your doctor and/or pharmacist. Most of the side effects are mild to moderate and will generally disappear if your treatment is interrupted for a few days.**

### **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 via [the national reporting system listed in Appendix V](#). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5. How to store Afinitor**

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister foil. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Do not store above 25°C.
- Store in the original package in order to protect from light and moisture.
- Open the blister just before taking the tablets.
- Do not use this medicine if any 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 to protect the environment.

## **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Afinitor contains**

- The active substance is everolimus.
  - Each tablet of Afinitor 2.5 mg contains 2.5 mg everolimus.
  - Each tablet of Afinitor 5 mg contains 5 mg everolimus.
  - Each tablet of Afinitor 10 mg contains 10 mg everolimus.
- The other ingredients are butylhydroxytoluene, magnesium stearate, lactose monohydrate, hypromellose, crospovidone type A and lactose anhydrous.

### **What Afinitor looks like and contents of the pack**

Afinitor 2.5 mg tablets are white to slightly yellowish, elongated tablets. They are engraved with “LCL” on one side and “NVR” on the other.

Afinitor 5 mg tablets are white to slightly yellowish, elongated tablets. They are engraved with “5” on one side and “NVR” on the other.

Afinitor 10 mg tablets are white to slightly yellowish, elongated tablets. They are engraved with “UHE” on one side and “NVR” on the other.



Afinitor 2.5 mg is available in blister packs containing 30 or 90 tablets.  
Afinitor 5 mg and Afinitor 10 mg are available in blister packs containing 10, 30 or 90 tablets.  
Not all pack sizes or strengths may be marketed in your country.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder**

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