

## MEKINIST®

trametinib (as dimethyl sulfoxide) tablets

### Consumer Medicine Information

#### What is in this leaflet

**Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using MEKINIST.**

This leaflet answers some common questions about MEKINIST (trametinib). It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

The information in this leaflet was last updated on the date listed on the final page. More recent information on the medicine may be available.

You should ensure that you speak to your pharmacist or doctor to obtain the most up to date information on the medicine. You can also download the most up to date Consumer Medicine Information from [www.novartis.com.au](http://www.novartis.com.au).

The updates may contain important information about the medicine and its use of which you should be aware.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking MEKINIST against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

#### What MEKINIST is used for

The active ingredient in MEKINIST is trametinib (as trametinib dimethyl sulfoxide), which belongs to a group of medicines called selective BRAF-inhibitors.

MEKINIST can only be used to treat people with melanoma (a form of skin cancer) that has spread to other parts of the body or cannot be removed by surgery. The melanoma has a change (mutation) in a gene called "BRAF". This mutation in the gene may have caused the cancer to develop. MEKINIST targets proteins made from this changed gene and slows down or stops the development of your cancer.

Your doctor may decide to treat your cancer with MEKINIST alone or in combination with another medicine called TAFINLAR (containing dabrafenib as the active ingredient).

**If you are taking these medicines together, please read the TAFINLAR Consumer Medicine Information as well as this one carefully.**

**Ask your doctor or nurse if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

MEKINIST is not recommended for use in children and adolescents, under the age of 18 years.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

It is not addictive.

#### Before you take MEKINIST

Before you take MEKINIST, your doctor will take skin tumour tissue samples to check whether MEKINIST is suitable for you.

#### When you must not take it

**Do not take MEKINIST if you have an allergy to:**

- Trametinib (active ingredient) or
- Any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing or difficulty breathing
- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- Rash, itching or hives on the skin

**Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

**If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.**

**If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.**

#### Before you start to take it

**Tell your doctor or nurse if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.**

Your doctor will want to know if you are prone to allergies.

**Tell your doctor or nurse if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:**

- **Heart problems**  
Such as heart failure, or problems with the way your heart beats.
- **Eye problems**  
Including:
  - Blockage of the vein draining the eye (retinal vein occlusion) or
  - Swelling in the back of the eye.
- **Lung disease**  
Including:
  - The group of diseases that affect the tissues and space around the air sacs of the lungs (interstitial lung disease), and
  - Inflammation of the lung (pneumonitis).
- **Skin problems**  
Including:
  - Rash or
  - Acne-like rash.

**If you are taking the combination of MEKINIST and TAFINLAR**

**Tell your doctor if you have an eye problem called uveitis.**

The symptoms of uveitis include:

- Eye redness and irritation
- Blurred vision
- Eye pain
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Floating spots before the eyes.

**Check with your doctor if you think any of these medical conditions may apply to you.**

**If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.**

#### Pregnancy

MEKINIST taken alone and in combination with TAFINLAR is not recommended for use during pregnancy.

**Ask your doctor or nurse for advice if you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby.**

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

MEKINIST can harm an unborn baby.

**If you are a woman who could become pregnant, you must use reliable birth control (contraception) while you are taking MEKINIST and for 4 months after you stop taking it. Ask your doctor about options of effective birth control.**

**If MEKINIST is taken in combination with TAFINLAR, non-hormonal contraception should be used.**

Birth control methods containing hormones (such as pills, injections, or patches) may not work as well while taking TAFINLAR.

**You need to use another reliable method of birth control such as condoms if MEKINIST is taken in combination with TAFINLAR. Ask your doctor or nurse for advice.**

**If you do become pregnant while you're taking MEKINIST tell your doctor or nurse immediately.**

#### Breast-feeding

**If you are breast-feeding, or planning to breast-feed, you must tell your doctor.**

MEKINIST is not recommended while breast-feeding. It is not known whether the ingredients of MEKINIST can pass into breast milk.

You and your doctor will decide whether you will take MEKINIST or breast-feed.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of these things, tell them before you start taking MEKINIST.**

#### Taking other medicines

**Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken, or might take any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

**Keep a list of the medicines you take, so you can show it to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist when you get a new medicine.**

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.

#### How to take MEKINIST

**Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.**

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**If you do not understand the instructions on the bottle, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

#### How much to take

The usual dose of MEKINIST is one 2 mg tablet once a day.

Your doctor may decide that you should take a lower dose if you get side effects.

**Don't take more MEKINIST than your doctor has recommended.**

If you are aged 65 years or more, you can use MEKINIST at the same dose as for other adults.

#### *When to take it*

Take MEKINIST once a day on an empty stomach (see "Take MEKINIST on an empty stomach")

It is important to take MEKINIST on an empty stomach, because food may affect the way the medicine is absorbed into your body.

Mekinist should be taken at least:

- 1 hour before eating  
or
- 2 hours after eating.

**Take your medicine at about the same time each day.**

Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

#### *How to take it*

Swallow the MEKINIST tablet whole with a full glass of water.

#### *Taking MEKINIST together with TAFINLAR*

Take MEKINIST in combination with TAFINLAR exactly as your doctor tells you.

**Do not change your dose, or stop MEKINIST in combination with TAFINLAR unless your healthcare provider tells you.**

**Take your once daily dose of MEKINIST at the same time each day, with EITHER the morning dose or the evening dose of TAFINLAR.**

Swallow the MEKINIST tablet and the TAFINLAR capsule, with a full glass of water.

**Take the first dose of TAFINLAR in the morning, and take the second dose of TAFINLAR in the evening, approximately 12 hours later.**

**Do NOT take:**

- More than one dose of MEKINIST a day, or
- The morning and evening doses of TAFINLAR at the same time.

#### *How long to take it*

**Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.**

This is a long term treatment, possibly lasting for months to years. Your doctor will regularly monitor your condition to check that the treatment is having the desired effect.

**Do not stop unless your doctor advises you to.**

**If you have any further questions about how long to take this medicine, ask your doctor or nurse.**

#### *If you forget to take it*

**Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.**

#### *MEKINIST taken alone*

If the missed dose is:

- Less than 12 hours late, take it as soon as you remember.
- More than 12 hours late, skip that dose and take your next dose at the usual time.

**Then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.**

#### *MEKINIST taken together with TAFINLAR*

**If you miss a dose of MEKINIST or TAFINLAR, take it as soon as you remember.**

**Do not make up for missed doses.**

**If the missed dose of MEKINIST is:**

- Less than 12 hours late, take it as soon as you remember.
- More than 12 hours late, skip that dose and take your next dose at the usual time.

**If the missed dose of TAFINLAR is:**

- Less than 6 hours late, take it as soon as you remember
- More than 6 hours late, skip that dose and take the next dose at the usual time.

**If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for some hints.**

#### *If you take too much (overdose)*

**Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that:**

- You may have taken too many MEKINIST tablets, or TAFINLAR capsules (if taking the combination), or if
- Somebody else may have accidentally taken your medicine(s).

**Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You/they may need urgent medical attention.

**Take the packs with you.**

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#### *While you are using MEKINIST*

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##### *Things you must do*

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking MEKINIST.**

**Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.**

**If you become pregnant while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.**

**Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.**

##### *Monitoring during your treatment*

Your doctor may do some tests from time to time to make sure the medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

During and after severe high fever events, some substances (enzymes) might be abnormally increased and your doctor will measure those and check that your kidneys are working properly.

##### *Conditions you may need to look out for*

Some people taking MEKINIST or MEKINIST and TAFINLAR together (combination treatment) develop other conditions which can be serious.

You need to know about important signs and symptoms to look out for while you're taking MEKINIST.

##### **FEVER (HIGH TEMPERATURE)**

Taking MEKINIST or the combination of

MEKINIST with TAFINLAR may cause fever. Although, fever is more likely with the two medicines together.

Signs and symptoms of a fever may include:

- Temperature of 38.5°C or more
- Shivering
- Thirst or dehydration
- Feeling dizzy, faint, or as if you're going to be sick.

**Tell your doctor, or nurse immediately if you get a temperature of 38.5°C or above while you are taking this medicine.**

They will carry out tests to find out if there are other causes for the fever and treat the problem with other medicines.

**If your temperature is between 38.5°C and 40°C inclusive**

Your MEKINIST treatment may continue. If you are taking MEKINIST or MEKINIST and TAFINLAR together you may be asked to interrupt TAFINLAR treatment. If your fever is controlled, your doctor may recommend that you resume TAFINLAR treatments either at the same dose or a lower dose.

**If your temperature is above 40°C**

You may be asked to interrupt treatment when you are taking MEKINIST or MEKINIST and TAFINLAR together. If your fever is controlled, your doctor may recommend that you resume both treatments at a lower dose, or that you receive only MEKINIST treatment.

If the fever is very severe or keeps returning, your doctor may recommend that you stop taking TAFINLAR and only receive treatment with MEKINIST.

##### **HEART DISORDER**

MEKINIST can affect how well your heart beats and may cause heart problems, or make existing heart problems worse (also see 'Heart conditions' in Side Effects). People with an existing heart problem are more likely to develop this side effect.

**Tell your doctor if you have a heart disorder.**

Your doctor will run tests to check that your heart is working properly before and during your treatment with MEKINIST.

Signs and symptoms of heart problems include:

- Feeling like your heart is pounding, racing, or beating irregularly;
- Dizziness, tiredness, lightheaded
- Shortness of breath
- Swelling in the legs.

**Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you get any of these symptoms, either for the first time or if they get worse.**

**If necessary, your doctor may decide to interrupt your treatment temporarily or stop it altogether. If you are taking the combination treatment, you may be allowed to continue treatment as normal with TAFINLAR.**

##### **EYE OR VISION PROBLEMS**

MEKINIST can cause eye problems. It is not recommended to take MEKINIST if you have ever had blockage of the vein draining the eye. Your doctor may recommend that you have an eye examination whilst taking MEKINIST.

Your doctor may ask you to stop taking MEKINIST or refer you to an eye specialist

if you develop any of the following symptoms during your treatment:

- Eye redness and irritation
- Blurred vision
- Loss of vision or other vision changes
- See colour dots
- See halos (blurred outline around objects).

If necessary, your doctor may decide to interrupt your treatment temporarily or stop it altogether. If you are taking the combination treatment you may be allowed to continue treatment as normal with TAFINLAR.

#### **RASH OR SKIN PROBLEMS**

MEKINIST can cause rash or acne-like rash (see also 'Rash or other skin problems' in Side Effects).

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you get a skin rash or if you have a rash that gets worse. Follow your doctor's instructions for what to do to prevent rash.**

Depending on how bad your rash is, you may be asked to interrupt treatment, or take your treatment at a lower dose because of the rash.

**Talk to your doctor immediately if you get a severe skin rash with any of the following symptoms:**

- Blisters on your skin
- Blisters or sores in your mouth
- Peeling of your skin
- Fever
- Redness or swelling of your face, hands, or soles of your feet.

#### **LUNG DISEASE**

MEKINIST can cause lung problems, including interstitial lung disease and pneumonitis.

**Tell your doctor immediately if you get any of these following symptoms of lung problems:**

- Shortness of breath and
- Difficulty breathing

These may lead to low oxygen in your blood resulting in light headedness, fatigue and confusion.

You may have your breathing checked by your doctor while you are taking MEKINIST to check for any lung disease.

If necessary, your doctor may decide to interrupt your treatment temporarily or stop it altogether

#### **BLEEDING PROBLEMS**

MEKINIST, when taken in combination with TAFINLAR, can cause serious bleeding problems,

**Call your doctor or nurse and get medical help immediately if you have any unusual signs of bleeding, including:**

- Headaches, dizziness, or feeling weak
- Coughing up blood or blood clots
- Vomiting blood or if your vomit looks like "coffee grounds"
- Red or black stools that look like tar.

*Things you must not do*

**Do not take MEKINIST with food.**

You must take it on an empty stomach.

**See "When to take it".**

**Do not take MEKINIST to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.**

This medicine has been prescribed for only you.

**Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.**

It may harm them, even if the signs of illness are the same as yours.

**Do not stop taking your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.**

This may cause your condition to become worse.

*Things to be careful of*

**Be careful when driving or operating machinery until you know how MEKINIST affects you.**

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#### **Side effects**

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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking MEKINIST.**

Like all medicines, MEKINIST can cause side effects but not everybody gets them. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them.**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

*Possible Serious Side Effects when taking MEKINIST alone*

**STOP taking MEKINIST and tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist IMMEDIATELY if you get any of the following symptoms (either for the first time or if they get worse) during treatment with MEKINIST:**

- Difficulty in breathing or swallowing, dizziness, swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat, severe itching of the skin, with a red rash or raised bumps.
- Thirst, low urine output, weight loss, dry flushed skin, irritability
- Loss of vision
- Blurred vision
- Blockage of the vein draining the eye
- Sensation of flashing light, loss of vision
- Fatigue, feeling full or bloated, heart palpitations, loss of appetite, nausea, reduced ability to exercise, shortness of breath, swelling
- Slow heart-beat
- Breathlessness, difficulty breathing when lying down, swelling of the feet or legs
- Headaches, dizziness, or weakness, coughing up of blood or blood clots, vomit containing blood or that looks like "coffee grounds", bleeding from nose, red or black stools
- Cough, difficult or painful breathing, wheezing, pain in chest when breathing, fever
- Crushing stomach pain, nausea
- Diarrhoea, abdominal pain, fever
- Abnormal breakdown of muscle, causing pain, fever, red-brown urine

*Very common side effects*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following that may affect more than 1 in 10 people.**

- Headache, dizziness

- Cough
- Short of breath, difficulty breathing
- An increase in the volume, wateriness, or frequency of bowel movements (diarrhoea)
- Unpleasant feeling of needing to vomit, or unwillingness to eat (nausea)
- Uncomfortable, involuntary, forceful, throwing up of food (vomiting)
- Difficult or infrequent bowel movements (constipation)
- Abdominal pain
- Dry mouth
- Skin rash
- Acne-like rash; itchy, red burning rash
- Dry skin
- Itching
- Unusual hair loss or thinning
- Feeling tired, weak or having lack of energy
- Swollen hands or feet
- Fever, temperature of 38.5°C or higher.

*Common side effects*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following that may affect up to 1 in 10 people.**

- Inflammation of hair follicles in the skin that causes itching
- Nail disorders such as nail bed changes, nail pain, infection and swelling of the cuticles
- Hot, tender and red skin, sometimes with fever, chills, and inflammation caused by infection
- Skin rash with pus-filled blisters
- Tiredness, fatigue, pale skin
- Blurred vision
- Swelling of the eyelids and swelling around the eyes
- Tiredness, chest discomfort, light headedness pain, palpitations
- Hard and painful swelling in the arms, legs, or other parts of the body
- Nose bleeds
- Mouth sores, mouth ulcers, inflammation of gums
- Skin lesion
- Skin reddening
- Reddening and/or swelling and possibly peeling on the palms and soles of the feet which may be accompanied by a tingling sensation and burning pain
- Skin cracks or fissures
- Pain, mouth sores, redness and swelling of airways or food pipe
- Unusual weakness.

*Common side effects that may show up in your blood tests*

- Some high liver enzymes
- Abnormal kidney blood test result.

*Uncommon side effects*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following that may affect up to 1 in 100 people.**

- Cough, difficulty breathing, painful breathing.

### *Possible side effects when taking MEKINIST with TAFINLAR*

Refer to the TAFINLAR Consumer Medicine Information for possible side effects and important signs and symptoms to look out for, such as fever, skin problems and eye problems.

When you take MEKINIST and TAFINLAR together you may get any of the side effects in the previous lists, although the frequency may change (increase or decrease).

***Possible serious side effects when taking MEKINIST with TAFINLAR STOP taking MEKINIST and tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist IMMEDIATELY if you get any of the following symptoms (either for the first time or if they get worse) during treatment with Mekinist:***

- New wart, skin sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal, change in size or colour of a mole
- Fever, sore throat or mouth ulcers due to infections
- Spontaneous bleeding or bruising
- Painful red eye
- Severe upper stomach pain
- Severely decreased urine output
- Difficulty breathing, chest pain, fainting, rapid heart rate, bluish skin discoloration
- Nausea, vomiting, constipation, stomach pain, frequent urination, thirst, muscle weakness and twitching.

### *Very common side effects when taking MEKINIST with TAFINLAR*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following that may affect more than 1 in 10 people.**

- Urinary tract infection
- Sore mouth and runny nose
- Decreased appetite
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Joint pain
- Muscle pain
- Pain in the hands or feet
- Chills
- Decreased weight.

### *Common side effects when taking MEKINIST with TAFINLAR*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following that may affect up to 1 in 10 people.**

- Warts
- Waxy, "pasted on the skin" growths
- Skin tags
- Excessive thirst, high urine output, increase appetite with weight loss
- Tiredness, confusion, muscle twitching, convulsions
- Dizziness, light headedness (low blood pressure)
- Thick scaly crusty skin
- Night sweats
- Thickening of the skin
- Excessive sweating
- Tender or painful bumps below the surface of the skin Uveitis
- Muscle spasms

- Tiredness, chills, sore throat, joint or muscles aching (influenza-like illness)
- Weight increased.

### *Common side effects that may show up in your blood tests when taking MEKINIST with TAFINLAR*

- Low levels of sodium and/or phosphate
- Increase in some substances (enzymes) produced by the liver

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

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### After using MEKINIST

#### *Storage*

**Keep MEKINIST tablets in the refrigerator at between 2°C and 8°C, where children cannot see or reach it.** Whilst in use, the bottle may be stored out of the refrigerator for a maximum of 30 days. Keep it where children cannot reach it. A locked cupboard at least one and half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

**Do NOT store MEKINIST or any other medicine:**

- In the bathroom or near a sink.
- On a window sill or in the car.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

**Keep the tablets in the bottle until it is time to take a dose.**

**Do not remove the desiccant. Keep the bottle tightly closed between doses.**

MEKINIST needs protection from light and moisture. If you take the tablets out of the bottle or remove the desiccant, they may not keep well.

#### *Disposal*

**If the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering when you received it, return it to the pharmacist.**

**If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.**

**Do not throw MEKINIST in the general household rubbish or flush it down the toilet.**

It may end up in landfill or enter waterways affecting the environment or marine life.

**Do not keep old medicines because you think you may need them in the future.**

Keeping any unwanted or expired medications runs the risk of unintentional poisonings.

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### Product description

#### *What MEKINIST tablets look like*

MEKINIST tablets are supplied in two strengths and are available in plastic bottles containing 30 tablets. The bottle has a child resistant closure and also contains a desiccant.

#### **0.5 mg tablets**

Yellow, modified oval, biconvex, film-coated tablets with 'GS' debossed on one face and 'TFC' on the opposite face.

#### **2 mg tablets**

Pink, round, biconvex, film-coated tablets

with 'GS' debossed on one face and 'HMJ' on the opposite face.

#### *Ingredients*

Each MEKINIST tablet contains trametinib dimethyl sulfoxide, equivalent to 0.5 mg or 2 mg per tablet as the active ingredient.

The tablets also contain the following ingredients:

- Mannitol (E421)
- Microcrystalline cellulose (E460(i))
- Hypromellose (E464)
- Croscarmellose sodium
- Magnesium stearate (vegetable source) (E572)
- Sodium lauryl sulphate (E487)
- Colloidal anhydrous silica
- Titanium dioxide (E171)
- Polyethylene glycol

#### **0.5 mg tablet only**

The 0.5 mg tablet also contains:

- Iron oxide yellow CI 77492 (E172).

#### **2 mg tablet only**

The 2 mg tablet also contains:

- Polysorbate 80 (E433)
- Iron oxide red CI 77491 (E172)

MEKINIST tablets do not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine, or any other azo dyes.

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### Sponsor

MEKINIST is supplied in Australia by:

**Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Limited**

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www.novartis.com.au

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#### *Australian Registration Numbers:*

- AUST R 205917: MEKINIST trametinib 0.5 mg (as dimethyl sulfoxide) tablet
- AUST R 205919: MEKINIST trametinib 2 mg (as dimethyl sulfoxide) tablet

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