

## ACARIZAX®

(a-kari-zaks)

Standardised allergen extract from house dust mites *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* and *Dermatophagoides farinae*

### Consumer Medicine Information

#### What is in this leaflet

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

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking ACARIZAX® against the benefits this medicine is expected to 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 ACARIZAX® is used for

ACARIZAX® contains an allergen extract from house dust mites. It comes in a tablet form which is intended to be absorbed in the body by placing it under the tongue.

ACARIZAX® is for the treatment of house dust mite allergy that is characterised by rhinitis (sneezing, runny or itchy nose, nasal congestion) and related allergic asthma in adults.

ACARIZAX® is not recommended for use in children below 18 years of age.

ACARIZAX® works by increasing your immune tolerance to house dust mites to reduce the severity of your allergic reactions over time.

Before starting treatment, the doctor will check if ACARIZAX® is suitable for you by performing the appropriate blood and/or skin prick tests.

ACARIZAX® is only available with a prescription from the doctor.

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

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is not expected to affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

#### Before you take ACARIZAX®

##### When you must not take it

Do not take ACARIZAX® if:

- you have an allergy to any of the 'Other ingredients' listed at the end of this leaflet
- you have poor lung function (as assessed by your doctor)
- your asthma has worsened over the last 3 months (as assessed by your doctor)
- you have asthma as well as an ongoing airway infection such as a cold or chest infection on the day you are to take the first dose of ACARIZAX®. Your doctor may recommend delaying the start of your treatment until your cold or infection is better
- you have an illness which affects your immune system or have cancer
- you have recently had a tooth taken out, had other forms of mouth surgery, or have ulcers or infections in the mouth (refer to Before you start to take it).

**Do not take the medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the**

**packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

**Before you start to take it**

**Tell your doctor if you:**

- have an allergy to any of the 'Other ingredients' listed at the end of this leaflet
- are being treated for depression, Parkinson's disease or have a heart condition such as high blood pressure or an irregular heartbeat (refer to Taking other medicines)
- have previously been treated for house dust mite allergy and had a severe allergic reaction have recently had a tooth taken out, had other forms of mouth surgery, are planning to have any form of mouth surgery, or have ulcers or infections in the mouth. Your doctor may delay or stop your treatment until your condition has resolved
- are recovering or are in remission from an illness which affects your immune system
- have an inflamed oesophagus
- are taking steroids
- are pregnant or intend to become pregnant during treatment
- are breast-feeding or intend to breast-feed during treatment.

##### Taking other medicines

**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines and ACARIZAX® may interfere with each other.

Ask your doctor for more information on medicines to be careful of or avoid while taking ACARIZAX®.

#### How to take ACARIZAX®

**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 in this leaflet, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

##### How much to take

The recommended dose of ACARIZAX® is one tablet per day. Each tablet contains 12 SQ-HDM standardised allergen extract from the house dust mites *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* and *Dermatophagoides farinae*. However your doctor may recommend a different dose for you. Always follow the instructions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist.

##### How to take it

Make sure your hands are clean and dry before handling the medicine. Follow the instructions below when taking ACARIZAX®:



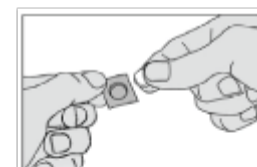
**Figure 1: Tear off the strip marked with triangles at the top of the pack.**



**Figure 2: Tear a square off the pack along the perforated lines.**



**Figure 3: To remove the tablet, fold back the marked corner of the foil and then pull it off. Do not force the tablet through the foil. Doing this may damage it because it breaks easily.**



**Figure 4: Remove the tablet carefully from the foil and use it immediately.**



**Figure 5: Place the tablet under the tongue. Allow it to remain there until it has dissolved. Do not swallow for 1 minute. Do not eat or drink for at least 5 minutes.**

Your doctor should give you the first tablet under medical supervision and then monitor you for 30 minutes. This gives you the opportunity to discuss any possible side effects with your doctor (refer to Side effects).

### *When to take it*

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

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

**Do not consume food and drink for 5 minutes after taking this medicine.**

Food can interfere with the absorption of this medicine.

### *How long to take it*

Continue taking the medicine for as long as your doctor tells you to.

**Do not stop taking the medicine until your doctor tells you - even if you feel better.**

If you do not take this medicine as prescribed, you may not get the full effect of the treatment.

### *If you forget to take it*

If you forget to take a dose, take it later in the day.

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

If you have not taken ACARIZAX® for more than 7 days contact your doctor before taking ACARIZAX® again.

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

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

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

**Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much ACARIZAX®. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

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### **While you are using ACARIZAX®**

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#### *Things you must do*

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, inform your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking ACARIZAX®.**

**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.**

You can expect some mild to moderate localised allergic reactions during your treatment. In most cases these reactions are only temporary. However if you think these are severe, talk to your doctor to see if you need any anti-allergic medicines such as antihistamines (refer to Side effects).

If you have not taken ACARIZAX® for more than 7 days you should contact your doctor before taking ACARIZAX® again.

**Tell your doctor if you feel the treatment is not helping your condition.**

#### *Things you must not do*

**Do not use ACARIZAX® to treat any other conditions unless your doctor tells you to.**

**Do not give this medicine to anyone else even if they have the same conditions as you.**

Do not take this medicine if you are under 18 years of age.

**Do not stop taking your medicine without checking with your doctor.**

If you stop taking it suddenly, your condition may worsen or you may have unwanted side effects.

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### **Side effects**

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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have any unpleasant effects while taking ACARIZAX® even if you do not think the effect is connected with this medicine.**

All medicines can have side effects.

Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need to seek 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.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- Irritation of the throat
- Swelling of the mouth
- Itching of the mouth
- Itching of the ears.

**Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:**

- Prickling sensation or numbness of the mouth or tongue
- Itching of the eyes
- Itching of the tongue
- Inflammation, discomfort or burning sensation in the mouth
- Stomach pain or discomfort
- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Pain when swallowing or difficulty in swallowing
- Indigestion
- Hoarseness
- Blistering of the mouth and mouth ulcers
- Vomiting
- Sensation of something stuck in the throat.

In most cases these reactions are only temporary.

**If any of the following happen, stop taking ACARIZAX® and tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:**

- Worsening of existing asthma
- Rapid swelling of face, mouth or throat
- Difficulties in swallowing or breathing
- Voice changing
- Start to feel faint or dizzy
- Feeling of fullness in the throat (like swelling)
- Tightness in the throat.

**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 ACARIZAX®**

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#### *Storage*

**Store the blister pack in the carton to protect the tablets from light.**

**Keep it in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.**

**Do not store ACARIZAX®, or any other medicine, in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car on hot days.** Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

**Keep it where young children cannot reach it.**

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

#### *Disposal*

**If your doctor tells you to stop taking the tablets, or the tablets have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any ACARIZAX® that is left over.**

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### **Product description**

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#### *What ACARIZAX® looks like*

ACARIZAX® tablets are white to off-white with an imprint on one side. The tablets are individually packed in blister foils.

The following pack sizes are available: 10, 30 or 90 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

#### *Ingredients*

Active ingredients

Each ACARIZAX® tablet contains 12 SQ-HDM standardised allergen extract from the house dust mites *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* and *Dermatophagoides farinae* as the active ingredient.

Other ingredients

The tablet also contains:

- gelatine (from fish)
- mannitol
- sodium hydroxide.

This medicine does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

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### **Distributor**

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**ACARIZAX® is distributed in Australia by:**

Seqirus (Australia) Pty Ltd  
ABN: 66 120 398 067  
63 Poplar Rd  
Parkville 3052  
Victoria

#### *Australian Registration Number*

AUST R 250392

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