

PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

BEZALIP® RETARD 400mg TABLETS

**BEZALIP® MONO 400mg TABLETS
(bezafibrate)**

Your medicine is known by either of the above names but will be referred to as Bezalip throughout the following patient information leaflet.

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, pharmacist or nurse.
- 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, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

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

1. WHAT BEZALIP IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Bezalip belongs to a group of medicines, commonly known as fibrates.

These medicines are used to lower the level of fats (lipids) in the blood. For example the fats known as triglycerides.

Bezalip is used, alongside a low fat diet and other non-medical treatments such as exercise and weight loss, to lower levels of fats in the blood.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE BEZALIP

Do not take Bezalip:

- if you are **allergic** (hypersensitive) to bezafibrate or any of the other ingredients in the tablets (see section 6).
- if you are **allergic** (hypersensitive) to fibrates or have developed a sensitivity to sunlight or artificial light (e.g. sunbeds) when taking these medicines.
- if you are taking **statins** (e.g. atorvastatin) **and** have any of the following which may increase the risk of you **developing muscle disease** (weakness, wasting and pain):
 - impaired **kidney** function
 - an underactive **thyroid** (hypothyroidism)
 - severe **infection**
 - **trauma**
 - **surgery**
 - a change in the levels of **hormones** or **chemicals** in your body (seen in a blood test)
 - a high **alcohol** intake.
- if you are having **dialysis**.
- if you have **liver** disease.
- if you have **gall bladder** disease.
- if you have **nephrotic syndrome** (a kidney disorder).
- if you have impaired **kidney** function.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Bezalip:

- if you have an **abnormal level of fats** (lipids) in your blood caused by:
 - uncontrolled type 2 diabetes mellitus
 - an underactive thyroid (hypothyroidism)
 - nephrotic syndrome (a kidney disorder)

an abnormal protein content in the blood
APPROVED for liver disease
 By *Tehseen Jaffer at*
 Medication

- if you have an **alcohol addiction**.
- if you have **Variation 0034**: To update storage condition from Store the tablets below 25C in a dry place to This medicine does not require any special storage conditions with consequential changes to the leaflet. Labels do not need amending.
- a change in the levels of hormones or chemicals in your body (seen in a blood test)
- a high alcohol intake
- are elderly (over 65 years old)
- have a family history of muscle disease.

Children and adolescents

Bezalip should not be used in children.

Other medicines and Bezalip

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

- coumarin-type anti-coagulants e.g. warfarin (used to prevent blood clotting).
- antidiabetic medicines such as insulin (used in diabetes).
- ciclosporin (used to suppress the immune system).
- anion exchange resins such as colestyramine (used to lower cholesterol). Bezalip and an anion exchange resin should not be taken within 2 hours of each other.
- statins e.g. atorvastatin (used to lower cholesterol).
- monoamine-oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) e.g. phenelzine (used in depression).
- oestrogen or medicines which contain oestrogen.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines

Bezalip may make you feel dizzy. Make sure you are not affected before you drive or operate machinery.

Tests

If you have impaired kidney function, your doctor may want to monitor you regularly by carrying out tests.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Bezalip

This medicine contains lactose. If you have been told you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine, as it contains a type of sugar called lactose.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

3. HOW TO TAKE BEZALIP

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. Swallow the tablets **whole with water, after food** in the **morning or evening**.

Bezalip and an anion exchange resin should not be taken within 2 hours of each other.

The recommended dose is:

Adults: One tablet a day (400mg bezafibrate a day).

Elderly: Your doctor may reduce the dose depending on how well your kidneys are working.

Children: Not recommended.

Impaired kidney function: Do not take Bezalip if you have impaired kidney function or are having dialysis.

If you take more Bezalip than you should

If you (or someone else) swallow a lot of tablets at the same time, or you think a child may have swallowed any contact your nearest hospital casualty department or tell your doctor immediately. Signs of an overdose include abnormal muscle breakdown (muscle pain or weakness, swelling) which can lead to kidney problems (rhabdomyolysis).

If you forget to take Bezalip

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you forget to take a dose take it as soon as you remember it and then take the next dose at the right time.

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

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

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

Contact your doctor immediately if you notice signs of:

- **an allergic reaction (hypersensitivity):** swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, itchy skin rash or narrowing of the airways causing difficulty breathing or swallowing.
- **gallstones:** pain in the upper abdomen or yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes (jaundice).
- **abnormal muscle breakdown (rhabdomyolysis):** muscle pain or weakness, swelling.
- severe form of skin rash with flushing, fever, blisters or ulcers (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome)
- severe rash involving reddening, peeling and swelling of the skin that resembles severe burns (Toxic epidermal necrolysis).

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following side effects or notice any other effects not listed:

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

- decreased appetite
- stomach disorders.

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

- dizziness
- headache
- bloated feeling
- feeling sick
- diarrhoea
- stomach pain
- constipation
- indigestion
- blocked bile flow (cholestasis)
- itching
- pale or red irregular raised patches with severe itching (hives)
- rash
- sensitivity to sunlight or artificial light (e.g. sun beds)
- hair loss (alopecia)
- muscle weakness, cramps or pain (myalgia)
- acute kidney failure
- erection problems
- changes in the levels of certain enzymes within the body (seen in a blood test)
- increased blood levels of creatinine.

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1000 people):

- damage to nerve endings causing tingling, pins and needles
- inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis)
- depression
- difficulty sleeping.

Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people):

- inflammation in the lungs (interstitial lung disease)
- decreased levels of platelets in the blood causing a disorder characterised by blood spots
- bruising and discolouring to the skin (thrombocytopenic purpura)
- decreased levels of the red blood pigment haemoglobin

- increased levels of certain enzymes within the body (seen in a blood test)
- circular, irregular red patches on the skin of the hands and arms (erythema multiforme)
- changes in the numbers and types of your blood cells.

If you notice increased bruising, nosebleeds, sore throats, infections, excessive tiredness, breathlessness on exertion or abnormal paleness of the skin, you should tell your doctor who may want you to have a blood test.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed on this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the **Google Play** or **Apple App Store**. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE BEZALIP

• **KEEP OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN.**

- This medicine does not require any special storage conditions.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date shown on the blister strip and carton.
- If your doctor tells you to stop the treatment, take any leftover tablets to the pharmacist. Only keep them if the doctor tells you to.
- Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

What Bezalip contains

- Each modified release tablet contains 400mg of the active ingredient, bezafibrate.
- The tablets also contain lactose, polyvinylpyrrolidone 25000, sodium laurilsulfate, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol 10000, polymethacrylate, colloidal silicon dioxide, hypromellose, talc, titanium dioxide (E171), polysorbate 80 and sodium citrate dihydrate.

What Bezalip looks like and contents of the pack

Bezalip is a round, white, film-coated tablet marked 'D9' on one side and plain on the other.

Bezalip is available as blister packs containing 30 tablets.

Product Licence holder

Procured from within the EU and repackaged by the Product Licence holder: Chemilines Ltd., Chemilines House, Alperton Lane, Wembley, HA0 1DX.

Manufacturer

This product is manufactured by either of the below manufacturers-

- Patheon Italia SpA, officina di Monza, Viale GB Stucchi 110, Milan, Italy.
- Roche SpA, officina di Segrate, Via Morelli 2, Milan, Italy
- Cenexi 52, Rue Marcel et Jacques Gaucher 94120 Fontenay-Sous-Bois, France

POM PL No: 08747/0120

Leaflet revision date: 02 November 2022

Blind or partially sighted? Is this leaflet hard to see or read? Call 02087997607 to obtain the leaflet in large print, tape, CD or Braille.

Bezalip® is a registered trade mark of F Actavis Group PTC ehf, Iceland.