

# BEZAFIBRATE

**Other names:** Fibalip®, Bezalip Retard®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

## Why are you taking this medication

Bezafibrate belongs to the group of medicines known as **fibrates**.

This medicine is used to lower high levels of **cholesterol** and other types of fats (lipids) in the blood stream.

High levels of cholesterol do not make people feel ill but can cause problems if left untreated. This medicine may help prevent problems such as heart disease that is caused by cholesterol (lipids) building up in blood vessels.

## When to take this medication

- Take bezafibrate exactly as directed by your doctor
- Bezafibrate should be taken with or immediately after food
- If you have been supplied the modified-release form of bezafibrate (Retard), it should be taken **ONCE** a day, swallowed whole, not crushed or chewed
- Try to take bezafibrate at the same time each day to avoid missing any doses
- While you are being treated with bezafibrate, alcohol should be limited
- Even if you do not feel unwell, do not stop taking bezafibrate without checking with your doctor first

## If you miss a dose

Take as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

## Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- Pain and weakness in your muscles (particularly in your legs) for no obvious reason
- Stomach Pain
- Mood changes, trouble sleeping
- Shortness of breath

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- Fullness of the stomach, nausea, diarrhoea
- Cramps
- Headache
- Dizziness and/or loss of balance
- Skin rashes, sometimes they can be itchy

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any other side effect(s) for your medicine not mentioned here.

### **Other medication**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medication including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Bezafibrate can also interact with other medication, namely:

- Anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin). The dose of warfarin may need to be decreased and more frequent monitoring of the International Normalising Ratio (INR) may be required.
- Diabetic medication (glipizide, gliclazide, insulin may need a dosage change when administered with bezafibrate).
- Cholestyramine. Have a gap of at least 2 hours between taking cholestyramine and your bezafibrate.

### **Storage**

Remember to keep your medication out of reach of children

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.**