



## **Riociguat (Adempas<sup>®</sup>) for Pulmonary Hypertension**

### Patient Information Leaflet

Your Cardiologist feels that you may benefit from being treated with the medication Riociguat (Adempas<sup>®</sup>). This leaflet gives some information about this medication, how it works and how it may affect you.

#### What is Riociguat used for?

Riociguat is used to treat Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension and patients with a specific type of Pulmonary Hypertension called Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension (CTEPH).

In CTEPH, the blood vessels of the lungs are blocked or narrowed with blood clots. This results in breathlessness and high blood pressure in the lungs. Riociguat can help patients with CTEPH who cannot undergo surgery to relieve the blockage, or in patients whom increased blood pressure in the lungs remains or returns after surgery.

Every individual will respond to treatment in different ways. It is important you have realistic expectations of what the treatment can do.

#### How does Riociguat work?

Riociguat is a type of medication called a guanylate cyclase (sGC)-stimulator. It works by widening the pulmonary arteries (the blood vessels that transfer oxygen from the lungs to the blood), making it easier for the heart to pump blood through the lungs.

#### How is it given?

Riociguat is available as 1mg and 2.5mg tablets, to be taken by mouth three times a day.

#### Dose

Riociguat is initially started at a lower dose. Your condition will be monitored closely. Your Cardiologist may later adjust your dosage to better control your condition.

You may take Riociguat with or without food. If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember but do not take two doses at once.



### Side effects

- Riociguat may cause the following side effects: giddiness, low blood pressure, limb swelling, headache, stomach discomfort or nausea. These effects are minimized by starting with a lower dose. If they do not improve or go away with time, consult the Pulmonary Hypertension Team for advice.
- To reduce giddiness when changing position, rise slowly from a sitting or lying position.
- A potential but rare side effect is having abnormal bleeding, for example coughing up small amounts of blood, having nose bleeds or unexplained bruising on the skin. If this occurs, call the Pulmonary Hypertension team for advice.

### Drug Interactions

- Inform your Cardiologist, Nurse and/or Pharmacist if you are taking any other over-the-counter (OTC) medications, health/herbal supplements or traditional medications. The Pulmonary Hypertension Team will check to ensure that the combination of medications you are taking is safe.
- If you are taking Riociguat, you should avoid certain kinds of medications. Some examples are: Nitrates (for relieving chest pain), Phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitors (for erectile dysfunction) or Alpha-blockers (for treatment of high blood pressure or urinary conditions like benign prostate hyperplasia).
- Take Riociguat at least 1 hour apart from gastric-acid reducing agents like antacids.
- Avoid grapefruit juice while taking Riociguat.
- As this medication may cause birth defects, female patients of childbearing age should take precautions by using at least 2 reliable methods of contraception to avoid pregnancy. If you suspect you may be pregnant, inform your Cardiologist as soon as possible.