

## Package leaflet: Information for the patient

### Finasteride Rowex 5 mg film-coated tablets

#### finasteride

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

#### **What is in this leaflet**

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

#### **1 What Finasteride Rowex is and what it is used for**

Finasteride Rowex is used for men to treat and control:

- **benign prostate enlargement**, which is a nonaggressive prostate growth.

Finasteride Rowex belongs to a group of medicines called 5-alpha reductase inhibitors. It reduces the size of the prostate gland, improving urinary flow and other symptoms of prostate enlargement. Finasteride Rowex decreases the risk of suddenly being unable to pass urine and needing surgery.

#### **2 What you need to know before you take Finasteride Rowex**

##### **Do not take Finasteride Rowex**

- if you are **allergic to finasteride** or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- **female** (see also under "Pregnancy and breast-feeding")
- a **child** under 18 years.

##### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor before taking Finasteride Rowex.

Inform your doctor if any of the following apply to you:

- **difficulty emptying your bladder** completely or a greatly **reduced flow of urine**  
Your doctor will examine you before beginning Finasteride Rowex treatment to eliminate the possibility of other urinary tract obstructions.
- need a **blood test** for “**PSA**”, a protein produced in the prostate gland  
Tell your doctor or nurse that you take Finasteride Rowex as it may alter the test results.
- reduced **liver function**.

##### **Mood alterations and depression**

Mood alterations such as depressed mood, depression and, less frequently, suicidal thoughts have been reported in patients treated with Finasteride Rowex. If you experience any of these symptoms contact your doctor for further medical advice as soon as possible.

##### **Other medicines and Finasteride Rowex**

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

Finasteride Rowex is **not known to influence** or be influenced by other medicines.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

Finasteride Rowex **must not be used by women**.

- If your sexual partner is or may be pregnant:  
Semen can contain traces of Finasteride Rowex. Therefore, **avoid** allowing your **semen** to come into contact **with your partner**, for example by using a condom.
- Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant should **not touch broken or crushed Finasteride Rowex** film-coated tablets.  
If Finasteride Rowex is absorbed by pregnant women, the male foetus may be born with deformed genital organs. Tablets are therefore film-coated to prevent contact with Finasteride Rowex.

### **Driving and using machines**

Finasteride Rowex is **not likely to affect the ability** to drive or use machines.

### **Finasteride Rowex contains lactose and sodium**

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

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

## **3 How to take Finasteride Rowex**

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

The **recommended dose** is:

- **1 tablet once daily**

### **Route of administration**

Swallow the film-coated tablet whole with one glass of water. It may be taken with or without food, however always at the same time.

### **Duration of treatment**

To be **decided by** your attending **doctor**.

Although an improvement is often noticed after a short time, it is necessary to continue the treatment for at least 6 months.

### **If you take more Finasteride Rowex than you should**

Contact your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

### **If you forget to take Finasteride Rowex**

Do not take a double dose to compensate the forgotten dose. Just take the next dose when it is due.

### **If you stop taking Finasteride Rowex**

Do not alter or stop treatment without your doctors' permission, as this can seriously harm you and reduce the therapy effect.

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

## **4 Possible side effects**

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

The most frequent side effects are inability to obtain an erection and reduced sex drive. These side effects occur early in the course of therapy and resolve with continued treatment in the majority of patients.

You should promptly report to your doctor any changes in your breast tissue such as lumps, pain or nipple discharge as these may be signs of a serious condition, such as breast cancer.

### **Allergic reactions**

Stop using Finasteride Rowex and immediately contact a doctor if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- Skin rashes, itching, or lumps under your skin (hives)
- Swelling of lips, face, tongue or throat; difficulty swallowing; hives and breathing difficulties (angioedema; the frequency is not known, i.e. it cannot be estimated from the available data).

### ***Side effects can occur with the following frequencies:***

**Common**, may affect up to 1 in 10 people:

- inability to obtain an erection
- reduced sex drive
- reduced volume of ejected semen.

**Uncommon**, may affect up to 1 in 100 people:

- tenderness and/or enlargement of the breasts
- difficulty discharging semen.

**Not known**, frequency cannot be estimated from available data:

- testicle pain
- inability to obtain an erection that continued after discontinuation of treatment
- reduced sex drive that continued after discontinuation of treatment
- male infertility and/or poor quality of semen
- abnormally rapid or irregular heartbeat
- increased level of liver enzymes
- depression
- anxiety.

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRC Pharmacovigilance; website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie). By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5 How to store Finasteride Rowex**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the blister and carton after “EXP”. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 25°C.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## **6 Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Finasteride Rowex contains**

- The active substance is finasteride.  
Each film-coated tablet contains 5 mg of finasteride.

- The other ingredients are docusate sodium, hypromellose, indigo carmine lake (E132), lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, propylene glycol, sodium starch glycolate (type A) talc, titanium dioxide (E171).

**What Finasteride Rowex looks like and contents of the pack**

Finasteride Rowex film-coated tablets are round, blue, biconvex and approximately 8 mm in diameter. The film-coated tablets are supplied in blister packs containing 10, 14, 15, 28, 30, 50, 50x1, 56, 60, 100 and 120 film-coated tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturers****Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Rowex Ltd., Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland.

**Manufacturers**

Salutas Pharma GmbH, Otto-von-Guericke-Allee 1, 39179 Barleben, Germany.

Rowa Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Newtown, Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland.

LEK S.A., ul. Domaniewska 50C, 02-672 Warsaw, Poland.

**This medicinal product is authorised in the Member States of the EEA under the following names:**

The Netherlands: Finasteride Sandoz 5 mg, filmomhulde tabletten

Ireland: Finasteride Rowex 5 mg film-coated tablets

Spain: Finasterida Sandoz 5 mg comprimidos recubiertos con película EFG

**This leaflet was last revised in 03/2020.**