

## RIVASTIGMINE (patch)

*ri-va-stig-meen*

### What does it do?

*Rivastigmine* is used to treat symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, such as confusion or memory loss.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have heart or bladder problems, or if you have ever had a stomach ulcer.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- Your doctor may do a heart test (ECG) before you start and while you are taking *rivastigmine*.

### How should you use it?

Use *rivastigmine* regularly as directed. Apply the patch to a clean, dry, hairless area of skin (such as the chest, back or upper arm). When you have removed the old patch, apply the new one in a different place to prevent irritating your skin. Do not cut the patch.

### What if you forget a dose?

If you forget to change the patch, remove the old patch and apply a new one as soon as possible. Then apply your next patch at your normal time.

### Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

### What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects   | Recommended action              |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Coughing or vomiting of blood, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, red or black bowel motions<br>Symptoms of a slow or irregular heartbeat including: feeling your heart skips a beat, dizziness or fainting | Tell your doctor immediately    |
| Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, indigestion, change of appetite, weight loss<br>Dizziness, tremor<br>Low mood<br>Red or itchy skin where patch has been applied   | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

### Other information:

- *Rivastigmine* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. (search NZTA - Are you safe to drive?)