

# Innovid<sup>®</sup> (pomalidomide)

## Brochure for Male Patients

- ▼ This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. You can help by reporting any side effects you may get.

## Summary

- Imnovid<sup>®</sup> is the trade name for pomalidomide.
- Pomalidomide is structurally related to thalidomide, which is known to cause severe life-threatening birth defects, therefore pomalidomide is expected to be harmful to the unborn child.
- Pomalidomide has been shown to produce birth defects in animals and it is expected to have a similar effect in humans.
- Ask your doctor to inform you on which are the effective contraceptive methods that your female partner can use.
- You should never share Imnovid<sup>®</sup> with anyone else.
- You should always return any unused capsules to the pharmacist for safe disposal as soon as possible.
- You should not donate blood during treatment and for 7 days after treatment finishes, this includes dose interruptions.
- You should not donate semen or sperm during treatment and for 7 days after treatment finishes, this includes dose interruptions.
- If you experience any side effects whilst taking Imnovid<sup>®</sup> you should tell your doctor.
- For additional information, please refer to the Patient Leaflet.

## Safety Information for all Patients

- You must never take Imnovid<sup>®</sup> if:
  - You are allergic to Imnovid<sup>®</sup> or to any of the other ingredients contained in the capsule.
- Pomalidomide is structurally related to thalidomide, which is known to cause severe, life-threatening birth defects.
- Imnovid<sup>®</sup> is expected to be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Ask your doctor to inform you on which are the effective contraceptive methods that your female partner can use.

## Side effects

Like all medicines, Imnovid<sup>®</sup> can cause side-effects, although not everybody gets them. Some are more common than others and some are more serious than others. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you would like more information, and refer to the Package Leaflet. Almost all side-effects are temporary and can be easily prevented or treated. The

most important thing is to be aware of what to expect and what to report to your doctor. It is important that you talk to your doctor if you have any side-effects during Innovid® treatment.

Before and during the treatment with Innovid you will have regular blood tests. This is because your medicine may cause a fall in the number of blood cells that help fight infection (white cells) and in the number of cells that help to stop bleeding (platelets).

Your doctor should ask you to have a blood test:

- before treatment
- every week for the first 8 weeks of treatment
- at least every month after that for as long as you are taking Innovid.

As a result of these tests, your doctor may change your dose of Innovid or stop your treatment. The doctor may also change the dose or stop the medicine because of your general health.

### **Reporting of Adverse Reactions**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You should also report side effects directly via the national reporting system to

ADR Reporting, The Medicines Authority, Post-Licensing Directorate,  
Sir Temi Zammit Buildings, Malta Life Sciences Park,  
San Gwann SGN 3000, Malta

Website: [www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt](http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt)

e-mail: [postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt](mailto:postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt)

OR

ADR Reporting: [www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal](http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal)

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

### **What should you tell your doctor before taking Innovid®**

- If your partner is pregnant, or if you think your partner may be pregnant or if your partner is planning to become pregnant, as Innovid® may be harmful to an unborn child.
- If you have previously had an allergic (hypersensitive) reaction such as rash, itching, swelling, feeling dizzy or trouble breathing while taking related medicines called ‘thalidomide’ or ‘lenalidomide’.
- If you have previously had an allergic (hypersensitive) reaction such as rash, itching, swelling, feeling dizzy or trouble breathing to any other ingredient in Innovid® capsules. Ask your pharmacist for advice.
- If you have had a heart attack, have heart failure, have difficulty breathing, or if you smoke, have high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels or are a diabetic
- If you have a history of kidney problems.
- If you have a history of liver problems.

- If you have a history of thrombosis (blood clots).
- If you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines bought without a prescription.

### **How to take your medication**

Your pharmacist can give you help and advice on taking your medicines. Some people find it helpful to mark on a calendar when they have taken their medicines each day or to set an alarm clock to remind them to take their medicines.

#### **Innovid<sup>®</sup>**

- Your doctor will prescribe a dose of Innovid<sup>®</sup> suited to you
- Innovid<sup>®</sup> is taken orally (by mouth) usually once each day for 21 days followed by a 7-day rest. The total 28 days is called a cycle
- Your doctor may adjust your dose depending on the result of blood tests and any side-effects you may experience
- Do not take more capsules than your doctor has prescribed. If in doubt, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice
- Innovid<sup>®</sup> capsules should be swallowed whole, with a glass of water, can be taken with or without food
- Innovid<sup>®</sup> can be taken at any time of day but it should be taken at approximately the same time each day

#### **Dexamethasone**

- Innovid<sup>®</sup> is licensed to be taken in combination with dexamethasone and therefore you are likely to receive both
- If you are also taking dexamethasone tablets you can take these at the same time as your Innovid<sup>®</sup>
- Dexamethasone is usually only taken for a few days each week. Follow the instructions from your doctor/pharmacist carefully

#### **What to do if you have taken more than the prescribed dose of Innovid<sup>®</sup>:**

If you accidentally take too many capsules, contact your doctor immediately.

#### **Taking other medicines**

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines bought without a prescription. If you are seeing a different doctor or other healthcare professional for treatment (your dentist for example) you should tell them that you are taking Innovid<sup>®</sup> and dexamethasone.

#### **How to store Innovid<sup>®</sup> safely**

- Keep your Innovid<sup>®</sup> in a safe place out of the reach and sight of children.
- Keep your Innovid<sup>®</sup> capsules in the original box at room temperature.
- Do not use after the expiry date written on the box.

#### **End of Treatment Requirements**

**After completing your Innovid<sup>®</sup> treatment, it is important that:**

- You return any unused Innovid<sup>®</sup> capsules to your pharmacist

- You do not donate blood for 7 days.
- You do not donate semen or sperm for 7 days
- If you have been using an effective pregnancy prevention method, you must continue doing so for 7 days
- If your female partner has been using an effective pregnancy prevention method, she must continue doing so for 4 weeks.

### **Pregnancy Prevention Programme**

- Prior to treating you with Imnovid<sup>®</sup>, you will be asked to sign a Treatment Initiation Form to confirm that the benefits and risks of Imnovid<sup>®</sup> therapy have been explained to you and that you have understood and agree to comply with the requirements of the Risk Management Plan.
- In order to ensure that an unborn baby is not exposed to Imnovid<sup>®</sup>, your doctor will complete a Patient Card documenting that you have been informed of the requirement for your partner NOT to become pregnant during treatment with Imnovid<sup>®</sup> and for 7 days after you finish Imnovid<sup>®</sup>. Your doctor will provide you with a copy of the Patient Card.
- You should not donate blood or semen or sperm during treatment, during dose interruptions and for 7 days after treatment finishes
- Imnovid<sup>®</sup> passes into human semen. If your partner is pregnant or able to become pregnant, and she doesn't use effective contraception, you must use condoms every time you have heterosexual activity, during treatment, during dose interruptions and for 7 days after the end of treatment even if you have had a vasectomy as seminal fluid may still contain pomalidomide in the absence of spermatozoa.
- If your partner has been using effective contraception, she must continue doing so for at least 4 weeks

**Each pregnancy prevention method has a different level of effectiveness and mode of action, including in some cases, the prevention of foetal implantation in the womb. Their published success/failure rate is based on using them perfectly.**

**You, or your female partner, must talk to your doctor, fertility expert or your gynaecologist about which method is most appropriate for you.**

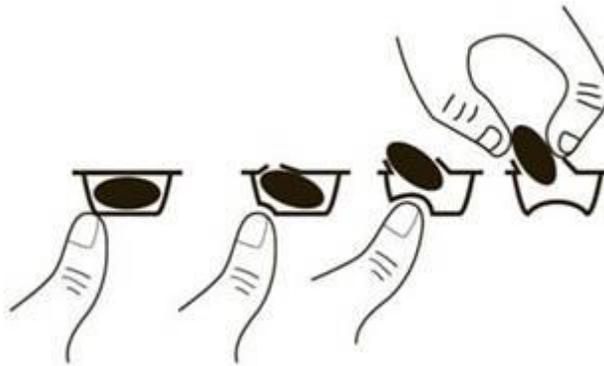
- If your partner does become pregnant whilst you are taking or 7 days after you have stopped taking Imnovid<sup>®</sup>, you should inform your treating doctor immediately and your partner should also consult her doctor immediately.

**Points to consider for handling the medicinal product: for patients, family members and caregivers**

Keep the blisters with the capsules in the original pack.

Capsules can occasionally become damaged when pressing them out of the blister, especially when the pressure is put onto the middle of the capsule. Capsules should not be pressed out of the blister by putting pressure on the middle nor by putting pressure on both ends as this can result in deformation and breaking of the capsule.

It is recommended to press only on one site at the end of the capsule (see figure below) as therefore the pressure is located to one site only which reduces the risk of capsule deformation or breakage.



**When handling the medicinal product use the following precautions to prevent potential exposure if you are a family member and/or caregiver**

- Wear disposable gloves when handling product and or packaging (i.e., blister or capsule).
- Use proper technique when removing gloves to prevent potential skin exposure (see below).
- Place gloves in sealable plastic polyethylene bag and dispose according to local requirements.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after removing gloves

**If a drug product package appears visibly damaged, use the following extra precautions to prevent exposure**

- If outer carton is visibly damaged – **Do Not Open**
- If blister strips are damaged or leaking or capsules are noted to be damaged or leaking – **Close Outer Carton Immediately**
- Place the product inside a sealable plastic polyethylene bag
- Return unused pack to the pharmacist for safe disposal as soon as possible

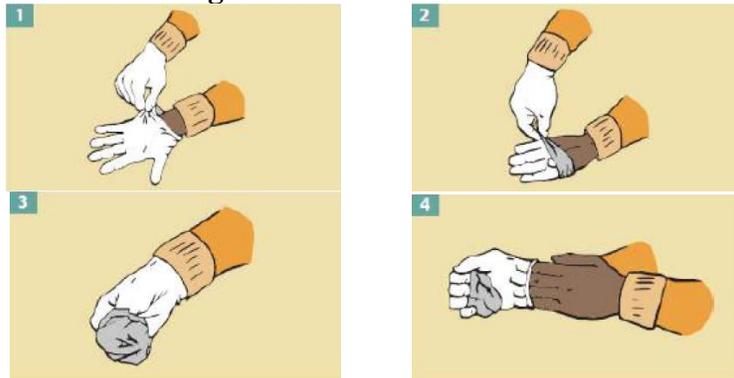
**If product is released or spilled, take proper precautions to minimize exposure by using appropriate personal protection**

- If capsules are crushed or broken, dust containing drug substance may be released. Avoid dispersing the powder and avoid breathing the powder.
- Wear disposable gloves to clean up the powder.
- Place a damp cloth or towel over the powder area to minimize entry of powder into the air. Add excess liquid to allow the material to enter solution. After handling clean the area thoroughly with soap and water and dry it.
- Place all contaminated materials including damp cloth or towel and the gloves into a sealable polyethylene plastic bag and dispose in accordance to local requirements for medicinal products.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after removing the gloves.
- Please report to the prescribing physician and/or pharmacist immediately.

**If the contents of the capsule are attached to the skin or mucous membranes**

- If you touch the drug powder, please wash exposed area thoroughly with running water and soap.
- If your eye had contact with the powder, if worn and if easy to do, remove contact lenses and discard them. Immediately flush eyes with copious quantities of water for at least 15 minutes. If irritation occurs please contact an ophthalmologist.

**Proper Technique for Removing Gloves**



- Grasp outside edge near wrist (1).
- Peel away from hand, turning glove inside-out (2).
- Hold in opposite gloved hand (3).
- Slide ungloved finger under the wrist of the remaining glove, be careful not to touch the outside of the glove (4).
- Peel off from inside, creating a bag for both gloves.
- Discard in appropriate container.
- Wash your hands with soap and water thoroughly.