

# Acarizax

## GP Information Sheet

### Introduction

Acarizax is a standardised allergen extract from house dust mites. It is an oral lyophilisate (melt) formulation, for the treatment of allergic rhinitis and/or allergic asthma associated with allergic rhinitis caused by house dust mites, and to improve allergic rhinitis symptoms secondary to house dust mite allergy. By repeated administration of the allergen to allergic individuals, the immunological response to the allergen can be modified.

Patients will be assessed for suitability of treatment at the secondary care clinic, where the indication for treatment, any relevant co-morbidities etc will be considered and the patient counselled on the medication and actions to take in the event of an allergic or adverse reaction and actions to take if stopping and restarting the medication is required.

### Dosage and Administration

The recommended dose for adults and patients >12 years of age is one oral lyophilisate daily.

It should be taken with dry fingers from the blister pack and placed under the tongue, where it will disperse. Swallowing should be avoided for approximately 1 minute. Food and beverages should not be taken for the following 5 minutes.

The first dose should be taken under medical supervision and the patient should be monitored for at least an hour. A treatment duration of 3 years will be required to achieve disease modification; compliance with the three year programme is important.

Acarizax should be stopped prior to any teeth extraction or severe oral inflammation and restarted when the mouth has healed.

If the treatment is interrupted for more than 7 days it is recommended to contact the specialist before restarting.

### Available as

Acarizax oral lyophilisate in pack sizes of 30 and 90.

### Monitoring Requirements

The first oral lyophilisate should be taken in secondary care under medical supervision to enable the patient should be monitored for at least an hour. Subsequent doses may be taken unsupervised.

Response to treatment will be assessed at secondary care clinic reviews. If no improvement is observed during the first year, treatment may be stopped.

A treatment duration of 3 years may be required to achieve disease modification and the clinic will advise when treatment is complete.

### Adverse Effects, Precautions and Contraindications

Systemic allergic reactions, and worsening of the symptoms of existing oral allergy syndrome, are usually only expected at treatment initiation; however cases of serious systemic allergic reaction have occurred at doses subsequent to the initial dose. Local allergic reactions of the upper respiratory system, oral pruritus, throat irritation, rhinitis, ear pruritus, and gastrointestinal disorders are common.

### Common Drug Interactions

No interactions or no potential drug interactions have been identified but special caution/consideration should be given to commencing acarizax in patients who are already established on tricyclic antidepressants, MAOIs, COMT inhibitors, beta-blockers, and ACEI, due to the potential risk of attenuation of adrenaline if this is required for a severe systemic reaction.

### Communication

For any queries relating to this patient's treatment with acarizax, please contact the specialist.

This information is not inclusive of all prescribing information and potential adverse effects.  
Please refer to full prescribing data in the SPC at <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/> or the BNF

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