



## What is Bemfola used for?

Bemfola belongs to a family of hormones known as gonadotrophins, which are involved with the normal control of reproduction. Bemfola is similar to follicle stimulation hormone (FSH) found naturally in humans.

Bemfola can be used to bring about development of eggs in women who are not ovulating or to stimulate the development of several eggs in women undergoing treatment such as IVF.

This medicine is available only on a doctor's prescription.

### Do not use Bemfola if:

- ◆ You have a history of allergy to Bemfola or its ingredients
- ◆ A tumour of the hypothalamus or pituitary gland
- ◆ Ovarian enlargement or large ovarian cysts
- ◆ Unexplained vaginal bleeding
- ◆ Cancer of the ovaries, uterus or breasts
- ◆ Fibroids in the uterus, which would make pregnancy impossible
- ◆ You are pregnant
- ◆ You are breastfeeding
- ◆ Do not take Bemfola after the expiry date on the package has been passed
- ◆ Do not take Bemfola if the packing is torn or shows signs of tampering
- ◆ If your medicine has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist/clinic for disposal

## Before you use Bemfola

### TELL YOUR DOCTOR if you have any allergies to:

- ◆ Any other medicines
- ◆ Any other substance such as foods, preservatives or dyes
- ◆ Any other pre-existing medical conditions

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

## How to use Bemfola

Bemfola is given as a subcutaneous injection usually below or near your navel. Your clinic nurse or doctor will explain to you how to give the injection. Bemfola comes as a pre filled injection pen in 75iu, 150iu, 225iu, 300iu and 450iu sizes. The dosage can vary and your clinic nurse or doctor will explain the dosage to you and you will be given instructions which detail the steps taken to self inject.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or clinic nurse carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you forget to take Bemfola you should contact your doctor or clinic nurse within 24 hours

## While you are using Bemfola

Your doctor will monitor your response to Bemfola closely by using blood tests and ultrasound.

### Do not:

- ♦ stop using Bemfola without telling your doctor
- ♦ change the dose unless your doctor or clinic nurse tells you to - changing your dose without advising your doctor can increase your risk of unwanted side effects or can prevent the drug from working properly.

Treatment with Bemfola may increase your risk of multiple pregnancy.

## Side effects

### TELL YOUR DOCTOR or clinic nurse if you do not feel well while taking Bemfola.

All medicines have side effects. Sometimes they are more serious, most of the time they are not. If you think you have side-effects talk to your doctor or clinic nurse.

### The most common side effects are:

- ♦ Pain, swelling or redness at the injection site
- ♦ Headache, dizziness
- ♦ Breast tenderness
- ♦ Nausea/vomiting
- ♦ Abdominal cramps or pain
- ♦ Diarrhoea
- ♦ Hair loss, dry skin
- ♦ Ovarian enlargement, bloating

### Less common side effects are:

- ♦ Symptoms of OHSS (ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome) which include severe abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, shortness of breath and low urine output
- ♦ Inflammation, swelling or clotting of blood vessels

If you are worried contact your doctor or clinic nurse.

## Storage

- ♦ Bemfola should be refrigerated between 2-8°C in its original packaging. Bemfola stored at 25°C but must be used within 3 months. Do not freeze.
- ♦ **DO NOT LEAVE IN THE CAR**
- ♦ Keep this medicine where children cannot reach it

## Disposal

Elonva syringes should be discarded in an appropriate disposal unit.

If you have any Bemfola that has expired or is not used return it to your clinic or pharmacy.