

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Letrozole (Femara): A hormone therapy drug to treat your cancer.

Dose and Schedule:

- You will take this medicine by mouth.
 - *Letrozole (Femara)* should be taken at the same time every day (morning or evening)
 - *Letrozole (Femara)* may be taken with or without food.
 - Take *Letrozole (Femara)* with food if your stomach becomes upset.
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- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
 - Swallow the tablets whole with water. Do not crush, open, break, chew or dissolve the medicine in water.
 - If you have any unused *Letrozole (Femara)*, do not throw it in the trash and do not flush it down the sink or toilet. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about proper disposal of *Letrozole (Femara)*.
 - *Letrozole (Femara)* has many drug interactions. Tell your doctor all the prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products you are taking.
 - Your doctor may change your dose, briefly stop or completely stop treatment with *Letrozole (Femara)* if you have side effects.
 - **DO NOT START A NEW CYCLE WITHOUT TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR FIRST.**

If you miss a dose of *Letrozole (Femara)*:

- Skip the missed dose and return to normal schedule the following day.
- If vomiting occurs after taking a dose, take the next dose at the scheduled time.
- Do NOT take two doses at one time.
- Write down if you miss a dose and let your doctor know about any missed doses.

Storage and Handling:

- *Letrozole (Femara)* may come from your regular pharmacy or from a special pharmacy through the mail. We will help you through the process.
 - The drug must be kept in a secure place out of reach of children and pets, so no one else can take this drug. Never share *Letrozole (Femara)* with anyone else.
 - Store *Letrozole (Femara)* at room temperature in a dry place and away from light. Do not store in a bathroom.
 - Keep in original bottle: do NOT place tablets in a pillbox.
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- Whenever possible, give *Letrozole (Femara)* to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend or caregiver gives *Letrozole (Femara)* to you, they also need to follow these steps
 - Wash hands with soap and water
 - Put on gloves to avoid touching the medicine (gloves are not needed if you give *Letrozole (Femara)* to yourself).

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- Do not let women who are pregnant or who may get pregnant touch the tablets without wearing gloves.
- Carefully remove *Letrozole (Femara)* from its package to a small disposable cup.
- Do not lay the medicine on the counter.
- Take the medicine immediately by mouth with water.
- Remove gloves and do not use them for anything else.
- Throw gloves and disposable cup in household trash.
- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Do not touch or handle crushed or broken tablets.

You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Hot flashes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Due to the higher levels of estrogen in your body, you may have hot flashes, increased sweating or discomfort. ● May be worse at night. ● Try staying in a cool environment ● Wear layers that can be removed if you experience a hot flash ● Avoid or limit caffeine, spicy food, alcohol and stress which may make hot flashes worse ● Place cool cloths on forehead ● Call your doctor if this affects your daily life.
Increased blood cholesterol levels	Your doctor will check your cholesterol level.
Bone, muscle, joint pain	Use pain prescription as directed. Notify your doctor if the pain is uncontrolled.
<i>Letrozole (Femara)</i> will be in urine and stool for several days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier. ● Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away. ● Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens. ● Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water. ● You may use the same toilet that you normally use. ● If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet ● Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet. ● It is safe to hug and kiss.

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Avoid pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women should not become pregnant and men should not get a partner pregnant while taking <i>Letrozole (Femara)</i>. • This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away. • Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for 1 month after stopping this drug. • If you or your sex partner gets pregnant, while taking this drug or within 1 month after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away. • May cause fertility problems.

Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects	What to do:
May cause dizziness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change positions slowly. • Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.
Fatigue or weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be more tired than usual or have less energy. • Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed. • Try to do some activity every day. • Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel more energetic. • Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.
Weak bones Osteoporosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your bone density will be checked. • Your doctor may prescribe calcium and vitamin D.
These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.	