

# Fulvestrant (Faslodex<sup>®</sup>)

## General Information

Fulvestrant is an anti-cancer medicine for hormone receptor positive metastatic breast cancer. It is for women who are postmenopausal and who have cancer growth even after using tamoxifen. Fulvestrant is an anti-estrogen medicine similar to tamoxifen.

## How Is It Given?

- oily liquid given by intramuscular injection (shot into the buttock muscle).

## What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

### Common:

- nausea (feel like throwing up) or vomiting (throwing up)
- constipation or diarrhea (loose stools)
- hot flashes
- pain in the stomach, back, throat or bones
- pain at the injection site
- headache
- weakness
- shortness of breath
- cough

### Less common:

- fever
- muscle pain
- dizziness
- vaginal irritation or bleeding
- weight gain

## Special Notes

- This medicine is given as a shot in your buttock. Your first three shots will be given every 2 weeks. The rest of your shots will be given every month.
- Because fulvestrant decreases estrogen levels in your body, you may be at increased risk for osteoporosis (weak, brittle bones). You may want to talk to your doctor about taking calcium and other measures you can take to protect your bones.
- Use effective birth control while you are taking this medicine. If you are pregnant, talk to your doctor before starting this medicine.
- Before you start taking fulvestrant, tell your doctor if you:
  - have bleeding problems
  - are taking warfarin (Jantoven<sup>®</sup>) or another blood thinner
  - have liver or kidney problems.

## When To Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have:

- severe nausea or vomiting
- shortness of breath
- pain, redness, or swelling in the legs or arms
- chest pain
- hives or rash
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- uncontrolled headache
- heavy or abnormal vaginal bleeding.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.