

# Letrozole (Femara®)

Letrozole is a medicine that decreases estrogen levels in your body. It is used to treat breast cancer.

## How Is It Given?

- tablet by mouth

## 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:

- hot flashes
- nausea (feel like throwing up)
- headache
- bone, back, arm, leg, muscle, joint pain or all
- decreased energy and weakness.

### Less common:

- constipation or diarrhea (loose stools)
- vomiting (throwing up)
- dizziness, sleepiness
- shortness of breath
- increased cough
- vaginal bleeding
- blood clots.

## Special Notes

- You may have increased bone pain, back pain, or arm and leg pain early on. This will not last long and usually ends if the therapy is continued.
- Most medicines may be taken with letrozole. However, check with your doctor before changing other medicines you are taking.
- Because letrozole 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.
- You may have changes in your menstrual cycle. Discuss birth control measures with your doctor. You should not get pregnant while taking this medicine.
- Do not stop taking letrozole without first talking with you doctor.

## When to Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have:

- severe diarrhea
- severe nausea, vomiting or both
- fever, chills, sore throat, or other signs of infection
- rash
- shortness of breath
- severe headache, slurred speech or vision changes

*(over)*

- pain, redness, or swelling in the legs or arms
- heavy or abnormal vaginal bleeding
- chest pain.

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