

Anastrozole (Arimidex®)

What is Anastrozole?

Anastrozole 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
- weakening of bones
- nausea (upset stomach)
- headache
- bone pain
- tumor pain
- decreased energy and weakness
- increased cough.

Less common:

- constipation or diarrhea
- vomiting (throwing up)
- dizziness, confusion, sleepiness
- depression, anxiety
- weight gain
- mild swelling of the arms, legs or both
- vaginal dryness or itching, vaginal bleeding
- blood clots.

Special Notes

- You may have increased bone and tumor pain early on. This won't last long and usually ends if the therapy is continued.
- Most medicines may be taken with anastrozole. However, check with your doctor before changing other medicines you are taking.
- Because anastrozole 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 anastrozole without first talking with you doctor.

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When To Call Your Doctor

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

Talk with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any questions about this medicine.