

# Raloxifene (Evista<sup>®</sup>)

Raloxifene hydrochloride is a medicine that blocks the effects of the hormone estrogen. This medicine is known as a selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM).

Women who have gone through menopause and are at high risk of breast cancer take this medicine to reduce their risk. The medicine is also used to treat and prevent osteoporosis (thin, brittle bones).

## 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 sweats and leg cramps (especially in the first 6 months)
- weight gain
- muscle or joint pain

### Less common:

- blood clot in large blood vessels (known as deep vein thrombosis)
- loss of blood flow to the brain that can cause a stroke
- blood clot in the lung (known as a pulmonary embolism)

### Rare:

- blood clot in a vessel in the eye

## Special Notes

- Do not sit for more than 30 minutes at one time for the first 4 months of taking this medicine. This can help avoid blood clots in your legs.
- Do not use any birth control that contains estrogen while taking this medicine. This includes estrogen pills, patches or injections (shots).
- Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine.
- **Important:** tell your health care provider if you take:
  - blood thinners such as warfarin (Coumadin<sup>®</sup> or Jantoven<sup>®</sup>)
  - medicine to lower your cholesterol (such as cholestyramine or colestipol)
  - medicine for low thyroid (such as levothyroxine).

(over)

## When To Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have:

- allergic reaction:
  - itching
  - hives
  - swelling in your face and hands
  - tingling in your mouth or throat
  - tightness in your chest
  - trouble breathing
- change in how often or how much you urinate
- pain when urinating
- chest pain or shortness of breath
- coughing up blood
- flu-like symptoms:
  - fever
  - chills
  - cough
  - runny or stuffy nose
  - sore throat
  - body aches
- signs of a blood clot in your leg (especially in your calf):
  - pain
  - redness
  - swelling
- signs of stroke:
  - headache (the worst you have ever had)
  - problems with your eyes, speech or walking
  - feeling numb or weak in your arm or leg or on one side of your body
- swelling in your hands, feet or ankles
- problems with your vagina:
  - pain
  - bleeding
  - discharge.

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