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2. Ethinyl estradiol/norethindrone

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone (HRT)

Generic name: ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone (HRT) [*ETH-in-ill-ESS-tra-DYE-ole-and-nor-ETH-in-drone*]**Brand names:** [Fyavolv](#), [Jinteli](#), Jevantique Lo HRT**Dosage form:** oral tablet (2.5 mcg-0.5 mg; 5 mcg-1 mg)**Drug classes:** [Contraceptives](#), [Sex hormone combinations](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 17, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone?

[Ethinyl estradiol](#) is a form of estrogen. Estrogen is a female sex hormone necessary for many processes in the body.

[Norethindrone](#) is a form of [progesterone](#). Progesterone is a female hormone important for the regulation of ovulation and menstruation.

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone HRT (hormone replacement therapy) is a combination medicine used to treat symptoms of menopause such as hot flashes, and [vaginal dryness](#), burning, and irritation. It is also used to prevent osteoporosis.

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone may cause serious side effects. Stop using ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone and call your doctor at once if you have:

- **heart attack symptoms**--chest pain or pressure, pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, nausea, sweating;
- **increased blood pressure**--severe headache, blurred vision, pounding in your neck or ears, anxiety, nosebleed;
- **signs of a stroke**--sudden numbness or weakness (especially on one side of the body), sudden severe headache, slurred speech, problems with vision or balance;
- **signs of a blood clot**--sudden vision loss, stabbing chest pain, feeling short of breath, coughing up blood, pain or warmth in one or both legs;
- swelling or tenderness in your stomach;
- jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes);

- unusual vaginal bleeding, pelvic pain;
- a breast lump;
- memory problems, confusion, unusual behavior; or
- **high levels of calcium in your blood**--nausea, vomiting, [constipation](#), increased thirst or urination, muscle weakness, bone pain, lack of energy.

Common side effects of ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone may include:

- stomach pain;
- bloating, swelling, weight gain;
- breast pain;
- light vaginal bleeding or spotting;
- thinning scalp hair; or
- headache.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Ethinyl estradiol / norethindrone side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

You should not use this medicine if you have: undiagnosed vaginal bleeding, [liver disease](#), a [bleeding disorder](#), if you will have major surgery, or if you have ever had a [heart attack](#), a stroke, a blood clot, or cancer of the breast, uterus/cervix, or vagina.

Do not use if you are pregnant.

This medicine may increase your risk of developing a condition that may lead to [uterine cancer](#). **Report any unusual vaginal bleeding right away.**

Using this medicine can increase your risk of blood clots, stroke, heart attack, or cancer of the breast, uterus, or ovaries. Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone should not be used to prevent [heart disease](#), stroke, or dementia.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone if you are allergic to ethinyl estradiol or norethindrone, or if you have:

- unusual vaginal bleeding that has not been checked by a doctor;
- liver disease;
- a bleeding disorder;
- a history of heart attack, stroke, or blood clot; or
- a history of hormone-related cancer, or cancer of the breast, uterus/cervix, or vagina.

Do not use if you are pregnant. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant during treatment.

Using this medicine can increase your risk of blood clots, stroke, or heart attack. You are even more at risk if you have [high blood pressure](#), diabetes, [high cholesterol](#), if you are overweight, or if you smoke.

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone should not be used to prevent heart disease, stroke, or dementia, because this medicine may actually increase your risk of developing these conditions.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- heart disease;
- liver problems, or jaundice caused by pregnancy or taking hormones;
- kidney disease;
- [hereditary angioedema](#) (an immune system disorder);
- bone cancer;
- lupus;
- asthma;
- epilepsy or other seizure disorder;
- migraines;
- porphyria (a genetic enzyme disorder that causes symptoms affecting the skin or nervous system);
- [gallbladder disease](#);
- [endometriosis](#) or uterine fibroid tumors;
- a thyroid disorder; or
- high or low levels of calcium in your blood.

Using ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone may increase your risk of cancer of the breast, uterus, or ovaries. Talk with your doctor about this risk.

This medicine can slow breast milk production. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding.

How should I take ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Try to take this medicine at the same time each day.

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone may increase your risk of developing a condition that can lead to uterine cancer. To help lower this risk, your doctor may also want you to take a progestin. **Report any unusual vaginal bleeding right away.**

Your doctor should check your progress on a regular basis (every 3 to 6 months) to determine whether you should continue this treatment. Self-examine your breasts for lumps on a monthly basis, and have regular mammograms.

If you need major surgery or will be on long-term bed rest, you may need to stop using this medicine for a short time. Any doctor or surgeon who treats you should know that you are using ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Contraception:

1 tablet orally once a day

Comments: To be taken at the same time each day.

Usual Adult Dose for Postmenopausal Symptoms:

1 tablet orally once a day

Comments: Not all preparations are indicated for the treatment of vasomotor symptoms due to menopause; the manufacturer product information should be consulted.

Use: For the treatment of moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms due to menopause

Usual Adult Dose for Acne:

1 tablet orally once a day

Comments: Not all preparations are indicated for the treatment of acne; the manufacturer product information should be consulted.

Use: For the treatment of moderate [acne vulgaris](#) in females with no known contraindications to oral contraceptive therapy and who have achieved menarche and are unresponsive to topical anti-acne medications

Usual Adult Dose for Prevention of Osteoporosis:

1 tablet orally once a day

Comments:

-Not all preparations are indicated for the prevention of postmenopausal osteoporosis; the manufacturer product information should be consulted.

-When prescribing solely for the prevention of postmenopausal osteoporosis, therapy should only be considered for women at significant risk of osteoporosis and non-estrogen medication should be carefully considered.

Use: For the prevention of postmenopausal osteoporosis

Usual Pediatric Dose for Contraception:

1 tablet orally once a day

Comments: To be taken at the same time each day.

Usual Pediatric Dose for Acne:

15 years or older: 1 tablet orally once a day

Comments:

- Not all preparations are indicated for the treatment of acne; the manufacturer product information should be consulted.
- Use should be reserved for the treatment of acne only if the patient desires an oral contraceptive for [birth control](#) and plans to stay on it for at least 6 months

Use: For the treatment of moderate acne vulgaris in females at least 15 years of age with no known contraindications to oral contraceptive therapy and who have achieved menarche and are unresponsive to topical anti-acne medications

 [Detailed Ethinyl estradiol / norethindrone dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. Overdose symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, or vaginal bleeding.

What should I avoid while taking ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone?

Avoid smoking. It can greatly increase your risk of blood clots, stroke, or heart attack while using ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone.

Grapefruit may interact with ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone and lead to unwanted side effects. **Avoid the use of grapefruit products.**

What other drugs will affect ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medications at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you take, which may increase side effects or make the medications less effective.

Other drugs may affect ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Ethinyl estradiol / norethindrone drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does ethinyl estradiol/norethindrone interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

ethinyl estradiol/norethindrone

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about ethinyl estradiol / norethindrone

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Patient resources

- [Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone birth control drug information](#)
- [Norethindrone, ethinyl estradiol, and ferrous fumarate \(Advanced Reading\)](#)
- [Ethinyl Estradiol and Norethindrone Tablets](#)
- [Ethinyl Estradiol and Norethindrone Chewable Tabs & Ferrous Fumarate Tabs](#)
- [Ethinyl Estradiol, Norethindrone, and Ferrous Fumarate](#)

Other brands

[Lo Loestrin Fe](#), [Junel Fe 1/20](#), [Blisovi Fe 1/20](#), [Loestrin 21 1/20](#), ... +78 more

Professional resources

- [Norethindrone, Ethinyl Estradiol and Ferrous Fumarate prescribing information](#)

Other brands

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Related treatment guides

- [Abnormal Uterine Bleeding](#)
- [Birth Control](#)
- [Postmenopausal Symptoms](#)
- [Acne](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and

use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

Medical Disclaimer

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug



Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

5.1 / 10

7,629 Reviews

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Ethinyl Estradiol and Norethindrone Acetate ethinyl estradiol 0.02 mg / norethindrone acetate 1 mg (239)



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