



[Home](#)

2. Femara

# Femara

**Generic name:** [letrozole](#) [ *LET-roe-zol* ]

**Drug classes:** [Aromatase inhibitors](#), [Hormones / antineoplastics](#)

Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on May 23, 2024.

[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

## What is Femara?

Femara lowers estrogen levels in postmenopausal women, which may slow the growth of certain types of breast tumors that need estrogen to grow in the body.

Femara is used to treat [breast cancer](#) in postmenopausal women. It is often given to women who have been taking tamoxifen (Nolvadex, Soltamox) for 5 years.

## Warnings

**Femara can harm an unborn baby or cause birth defects. Do not use if you are pregnant.**

Before taking Femara, tell your doctor if you have osteoporosis, high cholesterol, or liver disease (especially cirrhosis).

Femara may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert. To be sure this medicine is helping your condition, your blood may need to be tested often. Your bone mineral density may also need to be checked. Visit your doctor regularly.

Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use, especially tamoxifen (Soltamox).

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use Femara if you are allergic to letrozole, or if you have:

- if you have not gone completely through menopause; or
- you are pregnant.

Femara is for use only in women who can no longer get pregnant. **Letrozole can harm an unborn baby. Do not use letrozole if you are pregnant.** Use effective birth control if you are not past menopause. Keep using birth control for at least 3 weeks after your last dose of Femara. Tell your doctor if you think you may be pregnant.

To make sure this medicine is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- liver disease (especially cirrhosis);
- osteoporosis, osteopenia (low bone mineral density);
- high cholesterol; or
- if you also take tamoxifen.

You should not breastfeed while you are using letrozole and for at least 3 weeks after your last dose.

 [Femara pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I take Femara?

Femara is usually taken once per day, or once every other day. Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

You may take this medicine with or without food.

While using Femara, you may need frequent medical tests and your bone mineral density may also need to be checked.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Femara patient tips](#) (more detail)

## Dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose for Breast Cancer:

For use as first-line treatment of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor positive or hormone receptor unknown locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer. Femara is also indicated for the treatment of advanced breast cancer in postmenopausal women with disease progression following antiestrogen therapy: 2.5 mg tablet orally administered once a day without regard to meals.

In patients with advanced disease, Letrozole therapy should continue until tumor progression is evident.

### Usual Adult Dose for Breast Cancer - Adjuvant:

For use as extended adjuvant treatment of early breast cancer in postmenopausal women who have received 5 years of adjuvant tamoxifen therapy: 2.5 mg tablet orally administered once a day without regard to meals.

The optimal duration of treatment with Femara is not known. Treatment should be discontinued if there is a tumor relapse.

 [Detailed Femara dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What to avoid

Avoid driving or performing any hazardous activities until you know how this medicine will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

## Femara side effects

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

Common Femara side effects may include:

- hot flashes, warmth or redness in your face or chest;
- headache, dizziness, weakness;
- bone pain, muscle or joint pain;
- swelling, weight gain;
- increased sweating; or
- increased cholesterol in your blood.

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.

 [Femara side effects](#) (more detail)

## Related/similar drugs

### Trodelvy

Trodelvy is a targeted anticancer medication used to treat types of breast cancer and bladder ...

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Arimidex is used to treat breast cancer in postmenopausal women. Learn about side effects ...

#### Reviews & ratings

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Xeloda is used to treat breast and colorectal cancers. Learn about side effects, interactions and ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

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5.6 / 10

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## Methotrexate

Methotrexate is used to treat certain types of cancer of the breast, skin, head and neck, or lung ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.5 / 10

[335 Reviews](#)

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## What other drugs will affect Femara?

Other drugs may interact with letrozole, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use now and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Femara drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does Femara interact with my other drugs?

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

Femara

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## Popular FAQ

What are the benefits of taking Kisqali and Femara together?



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- [When do you ovulate on Femara?](#)
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- [Which is better - Aromasin or Femara?](#)
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- [How do you take Femara? What days do you take it?](#)

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## Professional resources

- [Femara prescribing information](#)
- [Letrozole \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Female Infertility](#)
- [Breast Cancer, Adjuvant](#)
- [Breast Cancer](#)
- [Breast Cancer, Metastatic](#)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Femara only for the indication prescribed.

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

DRUG STATUS

<b>Availability</b>		
Rx	Prescription only	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Lactation</b>		
	Risk data available	
<b>CSA Schedule*</b>		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
<b>Approval History</b>		
10+ years	FDA approved 1997	▼
<b>WADA Class</b>		
	Anti-Doping Classification	▼

User Reviews & Ratings

6.7 / 10

[67 Reviews](#)

Images

[Femara 2.5 mg \(CG FV\)](#)

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