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Estraderm

Generic name: [Estradiol Transdermal Biweekly Patch](#) [*es-tra-DYE-ole*]

Brand names: Estraderm, [Vivelle](#)

Drug class: [Estrogens](#)

[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com. Last updated on Apr 9, 2024.

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

Warning

- Estrogens may raise the chance of uterine cancer. Progestins may lower this chance. A warning sign for cancer of the uterus is vaginal bleeding. Report any vaginal bleeding to the doctor.
- Do not use estrogens to prevent heart disease or dementia. Oral estrogen has been shown to raise the risk of heart attack, a stroke, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, a blood clot, or dementia. It is not known if these effects are seen with other forms of estrogens. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Use estrogens with or without progestin for the shortest time needed at the lowest useful dose.

Uses of Estraderm:

- It is used to put off soft, brittle bones ([osteoporosis](#)) in women after [change of life](#).
- It is used to prevent or lower the signs of the change of life (menopause).
- It is used to add estrogen to the body when the ovaries have been taken out or do not work the right way.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take Estraderm?

- If you are allergic to [Estraderm](#) ([estradiol](#) transdermal biweekly patch); any part of Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch); or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have ever had a very bad or life-threatening reaction called [angioedema](#). Signs may be swelling of the hands, face, lips, eyes, tongue, or throat; trouble breathing; trouble swallowing; unusual hoarseness.
- If you have had any of these health problems: [Bleeding disorder](#), blood clots, a higher risk of having a blood clot, [breast cancer](#), liver problems or liver tumor, [heart attack](#), stroke, or a tumor where estrogen makes it grow.
- If you have eyesight problems like loss of eyesight from blood vessel problems in the eye.

- If you have thickening of the endometrium (lining of the uterus).
- If you have unexplained vaginal bleeding.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not take Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch) if you are pregnant.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch).

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch) with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take Estraderm?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch). This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- This medicine may raise the chance of blood clots, a stroke, or a heart attack. Talk with the doctor.
- Talk with your doctor if you will need to be still for long periods of time like long trips, bedrest after surgery, or illness. Not moving for long periods may raise your chance of blood clots.
- Call your doctor right away if you have signs of a blood clot like chest pain or pressure; coughing up blood; [shortness of breath](#); swelling, warmth, numbness, change of color, or pain in a leg or arm; or trouble speaking or swallowing.
- If you have [high blood sugar](#) (diabetes), you will need to watch your blood sugar closely.
- [High blood pressure](#) has happened with drugs like this one. Have your blood pressure checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Have a bone density test as you have been told by your doctor. Talk with your doctor.
- Be sure to have regular breast exams and gynecology check-ups. You will also need to do breast self-exams as you have been told.
- High calcium levels have happened with drugs like this one in some people with cancer. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of high calcium levels like weakness, confusion, feeling tired, headache, [upset stomach](#) or throwing up, [constipation](#), or bone pain.
- High triglyceride levels have happened with Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch). Tell your doctor if you have ever had high triglyceride levels.
- This medicine may cause dark patches of skin on your face. Avoid sun, sunlamps, and tanning beds. Use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protects you from the sun.
- This medicine may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch).
- Do not smoke. Smoking raises the chance of [heart disease](#). Talk with your doctor.
- Limit your drinking of alcohol.
- If you drink [grapefruit juice](#) or eat grapefruit often, talk with your doctor.

- This medicine works best when used with [calcium/vitamin D](#) and weight-bearing workouts like walking or PT (physical therapy).
- Follow the diet and workout plan that your doctor told you about.
- This medicine may affect growth in children and teens in some cases. They may need regular growth checks. Talk with the doctor.
- If you are 65 or older, use Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch) with care. You could have more side effects.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

How is this medicine (Estraderm) best taken?

Use Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch) as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Do not take Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch) by mouth. Use on your skin only. Keep out of your mouth, nose, and eyes (may burn).
- Use Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch) at the same time of day.
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Put patch on clean, dry, healthy skin on the lower belly or upper buttocks. Move the site with each new patch.
- Do not put a patch on the same site for at least 7 days.
- Do not use on skin that has any problems.
- Do not put on the breast.
- Put patch on a site without hair.
- Do not put the patch on the waistline.
- Do not use patches that are cut or do not look right.
- If the patch falls off, put a new one on.
- Wear only one patch at a time.
- After you take off a skin patch, be sure to fold the sticky sides of the patch to each other. Throw away used patches where children and pets cannot get to them.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Put on a missed patch as soon as you think about it after taking off the old one.

 [Detailed Estraderm dosage information](#)

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Signs of gallbladder problems like pain in the upper right belly area, right shoulder area, or between the shoulder blades; yellow skin or eyes; fever with chills; bloating; or very upset stomach or throwing up.
- Signs of a pancreas problem ([pancreatitis](#)) like very bad stomach pain, very bad back pain, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.
- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on one side of the face, or blurred eyesight.
- Eyesight changes or loss, bulging eyes, or change in how contact lenses feel.
- A lump in the breast, breast pain or soreness, or nipple discharge.
- Vaginal itching or discharge.
- Vaginal bleeding that is not normal.
- [Depression](#) or other mood changes.
- Memory problems or loss.
- Fever.
- Not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is passed.
- Pain when passing urine.
- Swelling.

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

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What are some other side effects of Estraderm?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Headache.
- Hair loss.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.

- Constipation.
- Stomach cramps.
- Bloating.
- Enlarged breasts.
- Tender breasts.
- Vaginal bleeding or spotting.
- Painful periods.
- Signs of a [common cold](#).
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Weight gain or loss.
- [Joint pain](#).
- Leg cramps.
- Change in sex interest.
- Irritation where Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch) is used.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at <https://www.fda.gov/medwatch>.

If OVERDOSE is suspected:

If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

How do I store and/or throw out Estraderm?

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Store in protective pouch until ready for use.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions

about Estraderm (estradiol transdermal biweekly patch), please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

More about Estraderm (estradiol)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Reviews \(36\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: estrogens](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

Patient resources

- [Estraderm advanced reading](#)

Other brands

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- [Estradiol \(Systemic, Local\) monograph](#)
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Further information


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

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

2.9 / 10

[36 Reviews](#)

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