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2. Fulvestrant

Fulvestrant

Generic name: fulvestrant

Brand name: [Faslodex](#)

Dosage form: intramuscular injection

Drug classes: [Estrogen receptor antagonists](#), [Hormones / antineoplastics](#)

Medically reviewed by [Melisa Puckey, BPharm](#). Last updated on Apr 16, 2024.

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What is fulvestrant?

Fulvestrant is a hormone therapy you may be prescribed if you have certain types of breast cancer. Fulvestrant is an estrogen receptor antagonist that binds to estrogen receptors in breast cancer cells. The hormone estrogen encourages breast cancer cells to grow, and fulvestrant works by binding and blocking the estrogen receptor, which slows the growth of cancer.

Fulvestrant was first approved by the FDA in 2002 after Phase 3 trials showed that the patients on fulvestrant took longer for their cancer to get worse, when compared to patients on Arimidex (anastrozole). It is approved to be used for certain types of breast cancer in women, so your doctor will only prescribe it for you if it has been shown to be effective for your type of cancer.

It is given as an injection into your buttock muscle once a month, but your dose may change depending on how well it is working for you and if you are having side effects. You may also be given other medicines with fulvestrant to treat your breast cancer.

What is fulvestrant used for?

Fulvestrant is a prescription medicine used to treat advanced breast cancer or breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body (metastatic).

Fulvestrant may be used alone, if you have gone through menopause, and your advanced breast cancer is:

- hormone receptor (HR)-positive and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative and has not been previously treated with endocrine therapy
- or
- HR-positive and has progressed after endocrine therapy.

Fulvestrant may be used in combination with ribociclib, if you have gone through menopause, and your advanced or metastatic breast cancer is HR-positive and HER2-negative, and has not been previously treated with endocrine therapy

or has progressed after endocrine therapy.

Fulvestrant may be used in combination with palbociclib or abemaciclib if your advanced or metastatic breast cancer is HR-positive and HER2-negative, and has progressed after endocrine therapy.

When fulvestrant is used in combination with palbociclib, abemaciclib, or ribociclib, also read the Patient Information for the prescribed product.

It is not known if this medicine; is safe and effective in children.

It is not known if fulvestrant is safe and effective in people with severe liver problems.

Who should not receive fulvestrant?

Do not receive fulvestrant if you have had an allergic reaction to it or any of the inactive ingredients. See the end of this page for a list of ingredients.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction to fulvestrant may include:

- itching or hives
- swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat
- trouble breathing

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking fulvestrant?

Before receiving this medicine, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have a low level of platelets in your blood or bleed easily
- have liver problems
- are pregnant, or plan to become pregnant. See below for more information on fulvestrant and pregnancy, as it can harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed during treatment with fulvestrant and for one year after the last dose. See below for more information on fulvestrant and breastfeeding.
- It is important to tell your healthcare provider if you take a blood thinner medicine.

How will I receive fulvestrant?

- Your healthcare provider will give you fulvestrant by injection into the muscle of each buttock.
- Your healthcare provider may change your dose if needed.

Dosing information

Fulvestrant is an intramuscular injection that is supplied as 5-mL single-dose prefilled syringes containing 250 mg/5 mL fulvestrant.

The recommended dose of fulvestrant is 500 mg to be administered intramuscularly into the buttocks (gluteal area) slowly (1 - 2 minutes per injection) as two 5 mL injections, one in each buttock, on Days 1, 15, 29, and once monthly thereafter.

 [Detailed Fulvestrant dosage information](#)

What are the possible side effects of fulvestrant?

Fulvestrant may cause serious side effects, including:

- Injection site related nerve damage. Call your healthcare provider if you develop any of the following symptoms in your legs following the injection:
 - numbness
 - tingling
 - weakness

The most common side effects of fulvestrant include:

- injection site pain
- nausea
- muscle, joint, and bone pain
- headache
- back pain
- tiredness
- pain in arms, hands, legs, or feet
- hot flashes
- vomiting
- loss of appetite
- weakness
- cough
- shortness of breath
- constipation
- increased liver enzymes
- diarrhea

Fulvestrant may cause fertility problems in males and females. Talk to your healthcare provider if you plan to become pregnant. See below for more information on fulvestrant and pregnancy.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects with this medicine. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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

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Interactions

Some medications interact with fulvestrant, so it is important to tell your doctor about any medicines that you are currently taking, or if you start or stop any medicine while you are having cancer treatment. Also tell your doctor about any over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, minerals or herbal products that you take.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take a blood thinner medicine.

To find out more about interactions with fulvestrant click the link below:

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

Does fulvestrant interact with my other drugs?

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

fulvestrant

+

Enter a drug name

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Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Pregnancy

You should not take fulvestrant if you are pregnant or planning a pregnancy, as it can harm your unborn baby.

Females who are able to become pregnant:

- Your healthcare provider may perform a pregnancy test within 7 days before you start this medicine.
- You should use effective birth control during treatment with fulvestrant and for one year after the last dose of fulvestrant.
- Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant or think you are pregnant during treatment with this medicine.

If you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed

- It is not known if this medicine passes into your breast milk.
- Do not breastfeed during your treatment with fulvestrant and for one year after the final dose of fulvestrant.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby during this time.

Storage

How should I store fulvestrant?

- Refrigerate, 2° - 8°c (36° - 46°f).
- Store in the original carton until time of use, to protect this medicine from light.

What are the ingredients in fulvestrant?

Active ingredient: fulvestrant.

Inactive ingredients:

Faslodex single-dose prefilled syringe: alcohol, benzyl alcohol, benzyl benzoate, and castor oil.

Faslodex single-dose prefilled syringe is Manufactured for AstraZeneca UK Limited, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England

Frequently asked questions

- [How long can you take Faslodex?](#)
- [How long does it take for Faslodex to start working?](#)
- [Is Faslodex a form of chemotherapy?](#)

References

1. [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Faslodex Product Label](#)
2. [Robertson JFR, Bondarenko IM, Trishkina E, et al. Fulvestrant 500 mg versus anastrozole 1 mg for hormone receptor-positive advanced breast cancer \(FALCON\): an international, randomised, double-blind, phase 3 trial. Lancet. 2016;388\(10063\):2997-3005. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)32389-3](#)

More about fulvestrant

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Reviews \(53\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
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Further information

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

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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



WADA Class

 Anti-Doping Classification



User Reviews & Ratings

6.5 / 10

[53 Reviews](#)

Images

[Faslodex \(fulvestrant\) 250 mg/5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe](#)

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