



AROMASIN[®]

exemestane tablets



Pharmacia
& Upjohn

Please read this leaflet carefully before taking your medication. This leaflet contains important information about Aromasin. If you want to know more about your illness or medication or you are not sure about anything, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine; you may wish to refer to it again.

What is in your medicine?

Your medicine is called Aromasin. Each tablet contains 25 mg of the active ingredient, exemestane. It also contains silica, colloidal hydrated (E551), crospovidone, hypromellose (E464), magnesium carbonate (E504), magnesium stearate (E572), mannitol (E421), microcrystalline cellulose (E460), methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate (E218), macrogol 6000, polysorbate 80 (E433), polyvinyl alcohol, simethicone, sodium starch glycolate, sucrose, titanium dioxide (E171), cetyl esters wax, talc, carnauba wax, shellac and iron oxides (E172).

Aromasin is available in blister packs of 15, 30 or 90 tablets.

What is Aromasin?

Aromasin is an irreversible aromatase inactivator. The drug interferes with a substance called aromatase which is needed to make the female sex hormones, estrogens especially in postmenopausal women. Estrogens are required by some types of cancer cells to proliferate.

Estrogen deprivation through aromatase inhibition is an effective and selective treatment for hormone dependent breast cancer in postmenopausal women.

Who makes Aromasin?

Aromasin is manufactured by Pharmacia & Upjohn SpA, Italy.

What is Aromasin for?

Aromasin is used to treat advanced breast cancer in postmenopausal women when a different hormonal drug treatment has not worked well enough.

Before you take Aromasin

If any of the following apply to you, tell your doctor before taking this medicine:

- If you have previously had an allergic reaction to exemestane or any of the other ingredients of Aromasin (listed above).
 - If you have not already been through 'the menopause', i.e. you are still having your monthly period, or if you are pregnant or likely to be pregnant or breastfeeding.
- If you are taking Aromasin and have been prescribed hormone replacement therapy (HRT), you should discuss this with your doctor.

How to take Aromasin

Aromasin tablets should be taken orally. Your doctor will tell you how to take Aromasin and for how long. The recommended dose is one 25 mg tablet daily. The tablets should be taken after a meal, at approximately the same time each day.

Aromasin is not suitable for use in children.

If you need to go into hospital whilst taking Aromasin, let the medical staff know about your medication.

How long should you take this medicine for?

Your doctor will tell you this, as this will change depending on your condition.

What if you forget to take Aromasin?

If you forget to take your tablet, take it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next dose, take it at the usual time. Do not take any extra tablets to make up for it.

What if too many tablets are taken?

If too many tablets are taken by accident, contact your doctor at once or go straight to the nearest hospital casualty department.



What are the possible side effects?

Aromasin, like all other medicines, may cause unwanted effects in some people. Many women can take Aromasin without any problems, but some women may have mild to moderate side effects. If you have any of the following side effects or other effects that you think may be related to your treatment, tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible.

The most frequently reported reactions are hot flushes, feeling/being sick, tiredness, dizziness and excessive sweating. Headache, sleeplessness, skin rash, loss of appetite, pain (including stomach ache), hair loss, depression, localised swelling, constipation and indigestion have also been reported. If you have any tests done in hospital, it may be noticed there are changes in your liver function and the amount of certain white blood cells (lymphocytes) circulating in your blood.

If you feel drowsy, dizzy or weak whilst taking Aromasin, you should not attempt to drive or operate machinery.

How should Aromasin be stored?

Do not store your tablets above 30°C and keep them in the original pack. As with all medicines, keep them in safe place out of the reach of children. Before use, check the expiry date printed on the pack. Do not use after this date. Return all unused tablets to your pharmacist for disposal.