Bicalutamide (Casodex®)
(“BYE ka LOO ta mide”)

**How this drug is given:** By mouth

**Purpose:** Slows prostate cancer growth by lowering testosterone levels

**How to take by mouth**

1. Swallow each tablet whole; do not crush or chew. If you are unable to swallow the tablet, the pharmacist will give you specific instructions.

2. Take with or without food.

3. If you miss a dose, take as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. **Do not double dose.**

4. Wash hands after taking the medication. Avoid handling crushed or broken tablets.

**Storage**

- Store this medicine at room temperature, away from heat and moisture. Keep this medicine in its original container, out of reach of children and pets.

**Things that may occur during treatment**

1. Some patients may have mild nausea. Drugs to help with this may be given to you.

2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within 3 days after the drug is given. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You may buy this at most drug stores. It is also important to drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help, tell your doctor or nurse.

3. Mild constipation may occur within 1 to 2 weeks after treatment begins. Please increase your fluid intake and increase fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®) and/or laxatives such as senna (Senakot®), may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your doctor or nurse. Do not use bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without talking with your doctor or nurse.
4. Swelling and increased tenderness of the breasts may occur.

5. Hot flashes and/or sweats are common. As your body adjusts to the drug, these may not bother you as much. Caffeine, spicy food, alcohol, and stress may cause these to get worse. Mild exercise may help.

6. You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. If these bother you, ask your doctor or nurse what type of drugs you may use to help with this pain.

7. You may have a decreased sex drive.

8. Your body may not be able to get rid of extra fluid. This is called edema. You may notice some swelling in your arms or legs.

9. This medicine may cause some men to become temporarily infertile.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.

Managing your oral chemotherapy schedule at home can be challenging. To help you with this, consider using tools to help you keep track of your schedule and any side effects you may have. You can find these tools online at www.dana-farber.org/OralChemoDiary.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: