How drug is given: By mouth

Purpose: To slow the growth of metastatic prostate cancer, by blocking testosterone.

How to take this drug

1. Take this drug once daily, at the same time each day.

2. Swallow each capsule whole; do not crush, open, or chew. If you have trouble swallowing the capsule, the pharmacist will give you specific instructions.

3. This drug may be taken with or without food.

Storage

- Store this medication at room temperature 68-77°F (20-25°C), away from heat, moisture, and direct light. Keep this medicine in its original container, out of reach of children and pets.

Things that may occur during treatment

1. During treatment you may experience back pain/backache. Tell your doctor or nurse if this pain becomes bothersome or interferes with any of your daily activities.

2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur 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. 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.

4. 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.
5. Hot flashes and/or sweats are common. As your body gets used 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. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also be helpful in maintaining your energy.

7. This drug can increase the risk of seizure. This risk is higher if you are on other medications that also increase your seizure risk. Avoid activities where sudden loss of consciousness could harm yourself or others, including driving or operating machinery. If you have a seizure, tell your doctor or nurse right away.

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.