



Anti-cancer treatment (hormonal): Bicalutamide (Casodex®)

Pronounced: "BYE-ka-LOO-ta-mide"

How drug is given: By mouth

Purpose: Slows prostate cancer growth by lowering testosterone levels

How to take this drug

- Take with or without food.
- Swallow each tablet whole. Do not crush or chew. If you are unable to swallow the tablet, the pharmacist will give you specific instructions.
- You should take the medication at the same time each day.
- 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.**
- Wash hands after taking the medication. Avoid handling crushed or broken tablets.

Storage and disposal

- Store at room temperature, away from heat and moisture.
- Keep this medicine in its original container, out of reach of children and pets.
- If you have unused oral chemotherapy pills (tablets or capsules), please return them to the pharmacy where the prescription was filled. Do not flush them down the toilet, dump in the sink, or throw away in the trash.

Things that may occur during treatment

- 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.
- Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Be sure to drink more fluids and get more 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 cancer care team. Do not use bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without talking with your cancer care team.
- During treatment, you may experience back pain/backache. Tell your cancer care team if this pain becomes bothersome or interferes with any of your daily activities.

- Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may help you maintain your energy.
- Swelling and increased tenderness of the breasts may occur.
- Your liver may be affected by this medicine. On occasion, blood work will be taken to monitor your liver function.
- You may have a decrease in sexual desire.
- This medicine may cause some men to have difficulty maintaining an erection.
- During treatment, you may experience pain in the pelvis. Tell your cancer care team if this pain becomes bothersome or interferes with any of your daily activities.

Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

Sexual health and fertility

- It is very important to use birth control while taking this drug and for 130 days after stopping the drug.
- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex with a woman of child-bearing age, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

The information in this document includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed here 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 are taking other medications. Please speak with your cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team. If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your cancer care team right away.