



Megestrol (Megace®)

("me-JES-trole")

How drug is given: by mouth

Purpose: This drug helps treat breast and endometrial cancer. It is also used to improve appetite.

How to take the drug by mouth

- Take with or without food. Take with food if medication causes an upset stomach.
- Swallow each tablet whole. Do not crush or chew them. If you have trouble swallowing the tablet, the pharmacist will give you specific instructions.
- If taking oral liquid (suspension), always shake the bottle well before each use. Always measure the liquid medicine with a marked measuring spoon, oral syringe, or medicine cup.
- If you miss a dose, take it 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.**
- Take at the same time each day, as directed.

Storage:

- 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 or after treatment

1. Weight gain and increased appetite are common.
2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can 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 get a headache. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about what you can take for this.
4. Some patients may have mild nausea. You may be given drugs to help with this.
5. Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, tell your doctor or nurse right away.
6. Skin changes, such as dryness, a rash, or itching on your body, may occur. Ask your cancer care team what lotions or creams you may use.
7. Women may notice vaginal spotting or bleeding. Please contact your physician if you have any of these symptoms.
8. You are at an increased risk of blood clots. If you have pain, swelling or and/or warmth in one leg, or if you develop sudden shortness of breath let your doctor or nurse know right away.
9. Fertility and Related Precautions:
 - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
 - Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug.
 - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed 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 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.

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