

Dutasteride (Avodart)

About This Medicine

Dutasteride is used to treat benign enlargement of the prostate. It is given orally (by mouth).

Possible Side Effects

- Impotence (erectile dysfunction)
- Decreased sex drive
- Ejaculation dysfunction
- Swelling of your breasts and/or breast pain

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 1% or greater of patients treated with dutasteride. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

Warnings and Precautions

- This medicine may raise your risk of getting high-grade prostate cancer.
- This medicine may affect prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels used to detect prostate cancer.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

Important Information

- Do not donate blood during treatment and for at least 6 months after stopping treatment.
- Women who are pregnant or could become pregnant should not handle this medicine or touch any open or broken capsules because this medicine can cause harm to an unborn male baby. If any of the content of a broken capsule gets on their skin, they should wash their hands with soap and water right away.

How to Take Your Medication



- Swallow the medicine whole with or without food. Do not crush, chew or open capsules.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you think about it on the same day. If not, continue with your regular dosing the next day; do not double up on the next dose.
- If you vomit a dose, contact your doctor for further instructions. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands after handling your medicine, your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- If any of the capsules are broken, leaking, discolored or deformed, do not touch them with bare hands. Carefully throw away the capsules and wash your hands after handling.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Avoid storing at high temperature since this may cause the capsules to become discolored and/or deformed.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medication label. Some facilities have take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your nurse or your doctor how to dispose of unused medicine.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- This medicine may interact with grapefruit and grapefruit juice. Talk to your doctor as this could make side effects worse.
- This medicine may interact with other medicines. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the prescription and over the counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) that you are taking at this time. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Lumps in your breasts or nipple discharge
- Breast tenderness or pain

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Dutasteride is not indicated for use in women.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this medicine passes into breast milk. Dutasteride is not indicated for use in women.
- **Fertility warning:** In men, this medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm banking.



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