

## Fulvestrant (Faslodex)

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### About This Drug

Fulvestrant is used to treat cancer. It is given as an injection in the muscle (intramuscularly).

### Possible Side Effects

- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Tiredness and weakness
- Changes in your liver function
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Bone, joint, back, and muscle pain
- Pain in your arms and/or legs
- Pain at the injection site
- Headache
- Cough and trouble breathing
- Hot flashes or sudden skin flushing may happen. You may also feel warm or red.

**Note:** Each of the side effects above was reported in 5% or greater of patients treated with fulvestrant. 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 drugs in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

### Warnings and Precautions

- Risk of bleeding, especially if you have low platelets, or are taking blood-thinning medication. Ask your doctor or nurse what precautions you should take.
- Injection site reaction - you may get numbness/tingling, nerve pain, and/or nerve damage at the injection site
- This drug may falsely elevate estradiol levels.

### Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.

- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Get regular exercise, with your doctor's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously, try taking a short walk.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.
- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- If you throw up, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- Ask your doctor or nurse about medicines that are available to help stop or lessen constipation.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your doctor or nurse before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- To help with decreased appetite, eat small, frequent meals. Eat foods high in calories and protein, such as meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, tofu, eggs, nuts, milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, pudding, and nutritional supplements.
- Consider using sauces and spices to increase taste. Daily exercise, with your doctor's approval, may increase your appetite.
- While you are getting this drug, please tell your nurse right away if you get numbness/tingling or nerve pain at the site of your injection.

## Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of fulvestrant with food.
- This drug 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:

- Tiredness and/or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Headache that does not go away
- Cough that is bothersome
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable



- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Severe bleeding at the injection site
- Pain and/or numbness/tingling at the injection site
- If you think you may be pregnant

## Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This drug can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for one year after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should not breastfeed during treatment and for one year after stopping treatment because this drug could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** In men and women both, this drug 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 or egg banking.

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