Anastrozole (an AS troe zole)
Patient Education

US Brand Names:  Arimidex®
Therapeutic Category:  Hormone therapy

What is this medicine used for?

- Used to treat hormone sensitive breast cancer in post menopausal women.

How does it work?

- This medicine blocks estrogen hormone production in your body. Hormones can stimulate the growth of breast cancer cells, blocking this hormone production reduces the risk of cancer cells growing.

What should my doctor or nurse know before I take this medication?

- If you are allergic to any medicines.
- If you are taking other over the counter or prescription medicines, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- If you have osteopenia or osteoporosis.
- If you have a history of high cholesterol.

How is this drug given?

- This medicine is taken by mouth.

What are the general precautions when taking this medicine?

- Talk with your doctor or nurse before taking aspirin, aspirin-containing products, over the counter or prescription medications, including vitamins and herbal remedies.

What are the common side effects of this medicine?

- Hot flashes or flushing.
- Joint achiness/pain.
- Vaginal dryness.
- Difficulty with sleeping and night sweats.
- When first starting the medication, nausea, diarrhea, and tiredness.
- Loss of calcium from bone with increased risk of bone fracture.

Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:

- Feeling extremely tired, weak dizzy or light headed.

How should I store this medicine?

- Keep all medicine out of reach of children & pets.
- Consult your pharmacist for instructions on storage and disposal of this medication.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- If you miss one or two doses, simply resume the medication at the next dose. If you miss more than two doses, contact your doctor or nurse.