Megestrol (me JES trole)
Patient Education

US Brand Names: Megace®; Megace® ES
Therapeutic Category: Hormone therapy

What is this medicine used for?

- Used in the treatment of hormone sensitive breast cancer and endometrial cancer. May also be used to stimulate appetite.

How does it work?

- This medicine has direct hormone effects in your body.

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 are, or may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.
- If you have diabetes.
- If you have a history of blood clots.
- If you have a history of heart disease.

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?

- Weight gain.
- High blood pressure.
- Insomnia.
Mood swings.
- Impotence (Men).
- Vaginal bleeding or discharge (most women will have a period after stopping megestrol acetate).

Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:
- Feeling extremely tired, weak, dizzy or light headed.
- Sudden onset of difficulty breathing.
- Have any pain, redness, or swelling in one or both of your ankles, calves, or legs.

How should I store this medicine?
- Keep all medicine out of reach of children and 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.