

Patient Care Services
300 Pasteur Drive
Stanford, CA 94305

Toremifene (tore EM i feen) Patient Education

US Brand Names: Fareston®
Therapeutic Category: Hormone therapy

What is this medicine used for?

- Used to treat hormone-sensitive breast cancer. Toremifene may also be used to reduce the risk of breast cancer in women at high risk.

How does it work?

- This medicine blocks estrogen from binding to the estrogen receptor in your body. Blocking hormones that stimulate the growth of breast cancer cells 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 are taking an antidepressant.
- If you are, or may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.
- If you have liver problems.
- If you are taking the blood thinner warfarin.
- If you have history of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism
- If you are using a hormonal method of birth control or hormone replacement such as a pill, patch, or estrogen ring.

How is this drug given?

- This medicine is taken by mouth once or twice per day.

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 (St John's Wort).

- If you or your partner can get pregnant, use a non-hormonal form of birth control during your treatment.
- Once completing treatment, discuss the timing for discontinuing birth control measures with your provider (pt. teaching sheet fertility).
- If you have elective surgery planned, discuss with your doctor or nurse whether you should temporarily discontinue toremifene before and after the surgery.

What are the common side effects of this medicine?

- Menopausal symptoms: hot flashes or flushing, night sweats, mood changes, vaginal dryness or discharge, problems with sleep.
- Irregular periods or no period (amenorrhea). This is not an effective form of birth control.
- Slight increased risk of blood clots.
- Slight increased risk of cancer of the uterus in postmenopausal women.
- Slight increased risk of cataracts.
- Increase in strength of bone.

Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:

- Feeling extremely tired, weak, dizzy or light headed.
- Sudden onset of difficulty breathing, chest pain, or cough with blood.
- Pain, redness, and/or swelling in one or both of your ankles or calves.
- Vaginal bleeding or spotting if you are postmenopausal.

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 have missed one or two doses simply take your next scheduled dose. If you have missed more than 2 doses, contact your doctor or nurse.

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