

# Bicalutamide

Names	Bicalutamide (bye-ka-LOO-ta-mide) is the generic drug name. Casodex® is a brand name. (There may be other names for this medication.)
Why am I Taking Bicalutamide and how is it Given?	Bicalutamide is used in combination with other drugs to treat prostate cancer. This drug is taken orally (by mouth).
How Does it Work?	Male hormone (androgens) that normally circulate throughout a man's body can encourage some types of prostate cancers to grow. Bicalutamide is a type of hormone therapy that blocks the effects of androgens (male hormones). It belongs to a class of drugs called nonsteroidal anti-androgens. This drug does not act directly on the cancer cells but rather inhibits the growth and spread of prostate cancer by blocking hormones that encourages the cancer's growth. Bicalutamide is usually given along with other hormone therapy medications, usually one of the drugs in a class called LHRH agonists (leutinizing hormone - releasing hormone). Leutinizing hormone causes the testicles to release a male hormone called testosterone. The LHRH agonists tell the brain to stop making leutinizing hormone.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have had an allergic reaction to bicalutamide or any ingredients</li><li>• are taking warfarin (Coumadin®)</li><li>• have liver disease</li></ul> <p><b>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.</b></p>
What Are Some Possible Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hot flashes, sweating, and/or flushing</li><li>• Breast swelling, tenderness, or pain</li><li>• Loss of sexual desire or impotence</li></ul>

#### Less common

- Nausea, vomiting, gas, loss of appetite, or indigestion
- Diarrhea (that may last for several days)
- Constipation (normal bowel routine usually returns about one week after the drug is stopped)
- Headache and/or dizziness
- Pelvic, back, muscle, or joint pain
- Raised, red rash on arms, legs, back, or chest
- Swelling of feet or legs
- Dizziness or confusion
- Increased blood pressure
- Change in weight (loss or gain)
- Pain, burning, or tingling in the hands or feet
- Difficulty sleeping and/or feeling of uneasiness or dread
- Need to urinate frequently during the night, painful or difficult urination, frequent or urgent need to urinate, or blood in your urine

#### How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea, vomiting, headache, and diarrhea.
- Check with your doctor or nurse before using enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- Speak with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm banking.
- Do not put anything on your rash unless your doctor gives his or her approval first.
- Dress in layers, use a cool washcloth around your neck, or a personal-size fan (or a fan that sprays a light mist) may help with the hot flashes.
- Avoid alcohol.

#### When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call 911 or go to nearest emergency room if you have signs of a severe allergic reaction: swelling in your face, mouth, or throat; chest tightness, or trouble breathing. **Let us know if you go to the ER or are admitted to the hospital.**

#### **Call your doctor immediately if you have:**

- pain in the upper right part of the stomach, dull or sharp pain in your side, or chest pain
- itching, rash, or hives

When Should I  
Call the  
Doctor? (cont.)

**Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:**

- uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea that is not relieved by prescribed medication or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- swelling of feet or legs
- dizziness or confusion
- yellowing of eyes or skin
- dark urine or pale stools
- no bowel movement for 3 days or if you become uncomfortable
- persistent loss of appetite or weight loss of 5 pounds or more in 1 week
- extreme fatigue that interferes with normal activities
- rash that is bothersome
- back or pelvic pain
- impotence or loss of sexual desire
- hot flashes that interfere with sleep or normal activities

What Else  
Should I Know  
About  
Bicalutamide?

- Take your medicine at the same time every day. You can take it with or without food.
- Store the medicine at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.
- Do not stop using this medicine suddenly, without talking to your doctor.
- Be sure to keep all appointments with your lab and doctors.