

Fulvestrant

Names	The generic drug name is fulvestrant (fool-VES-trant). Faslodex® is a brand name. There may be other names for this medication.
Why am I Receiving Fulvestrant?	This drug is used to treat hormone receptor positive breast cancer in postmenopausal women and in women whose breast cancer has worsened after being treated with anti-estrogen medications such as tamoxifen
How is it Given and How Does it Work ?	<p>This medication is given by intramuscular (IM) injection, usually into a large muscle in the buttocks. It is commonly given once a month.</p> <p>Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control. In some cancers, the presence of a particular hormone may cause the tumors to grow. For example, the presence of estrogen causes some types of breast cancers to grow.</p> <p>Hormone therapy may be used in a few different ways to fight hormone-dependent cancers. It can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• block your body's ability to make the hormone• stop the hormone from attaching to receptors on cancer cells• act as a substitute and bind to the estrogen receptors on a cell, which prevents estrogen from entering the cancer cells <p>Fulvestrant is an estrogen receptor antagonist; it works by the third method, substitution. It attaches itself to the (estrogen) receptors on the cells and causes the receptor to break down. This blocks the effects of estrogen on the cancer cells, and tumor growth may slow or stop</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Fulvestrant?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have or have ever had any bleeding or clotting problems or take medication that 'thins' the blood• have had an allergic reaction to fulvestrant or other medications• are breastfeeding, pregnant, or have plans to become pregnant• or liver or kidney disease <p>This drug may interact with other medications. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.</p>

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

The following side effects occurred in fewer than 1 in 5 people when fulvestrant was used as a single therapy:

- redness, swelling, or pain at the injection site
- nausea
- bone, muscle, back, and/or joint pain
- headache
- fatigue
- hot flashes
- vomiting, loss of appetite
- constipation, diarrhea
- cough, shortness of breath

Side effects may be different or more/less severe if fulvestrant is given in combination with other medications

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Drink 2-3 quarts of fluids every day, particularly water, unless your doctor has restricted your fluids.
- Get plenty of rest
- Wash your hands often.
- Skin: Avoid exposing your skin to the sun. Wear sun block with a 30 SPF, long sleeve shirts, long pants, and a brimmed hat. If you get a rash, keep the area clean and dry. Check with your doctor before you put any creams, gels, or lotions on a rash or to soothe itching.
- Mouth care is very important. To minimize mouth problems, rinse your mouth with a mixture of ½ teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water after every meal and at bedtime. Brush your teeth and gums with a soft toothbrush. (Soften it further by running it under warm water). Floss your teeth gently. Avoid smoking, alcohol, and mouthwashes that contain alcohol.
- Do not use any tobacco products.
- Nausea: Eat small meals more frequently. Talk to your doctor about medication to prevent/lessen nausea.
- Talk to your provider before you use any over-the-counter products for a symptom, have any vaccinations, or start any new medication (including herbs and supplements),

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- any signs of allergic reaction: wheezing, chest tightness, itching, rash, dizziness, lightheadedness, palpitations, shortness of breath, or

swelling of face, lips, tongue, or tongue

- any signs of infection: temperature of 100.5° F (38° C) or higher, chills, sore throat, or frequent or burning urination
- chest pain

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- nausea, vomiting, or persistent or unusual headache that does not respond to prescribed medication
- easy bruising or bleeding, extreme fatigue

**What Else
Should I Know
About
Nivolumab?**

- In less than 1 in 100 women who changed from another hormone therapy to fulvestrant, vaginal bleeding was reported in the first 6 weeks of treatment. If you have this side effect and the bleeding persists, call your doctor.
- A rare but serious side effect is blood clots, including deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolus (PE).
 - Seek emergency help and notify your doctor immediately if you develop sudden chest pain and/or shortness of breath.
 - Notify your health care provider within 24 hours if you notice that one leg is swollen, red, painful and/or warm to touch and the other is not.
- If you would like more information about fulvestrant, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.