



Patient Education

Letrozole (let'roe zole)

Other Names	Femera® (There may be other brand names for this medication.)
How is it Administered?	Your medicine comes as a tablet to be taken by mouth.
Why Am I Taking Letrozole?	<p>Letrozole is given to women who have already gone through menopause to treat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• breast cancer that has spread within the breast or to other parts of the body• early breast cancer in women who have already been treated with surgery, radiation, and/or chemotherapy
How Does it Work?	<p>Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control. Both normal and cancer cells go through cycles that include a resting phase, active growing phases, and division. Your chemotherapy schedule is based upon the type of cancer you have, the rate at which they divide, and the times when each drug is the most likely to be effective. This is why chemotherapy is typically given in cycles.</p> <p>Letrozole is an aromatase inhibitor, which means it blocks the actions of the enzyme <i>aromatase</i>. Aromatase turns the hormones made by the adrenal glands (androgens) into the hormone estrogen.</p> <p>Some types of cancer grow in the presence of estrogen. By taking letrozole, estrogen production is slowed or stopped, and the tumor may shrink.</p>

