



Exemestane (ex-uh-MESS-tane)

Other Names	Aromasin® (There may be other brand names for this medication).
How is it Administered?	Exemestane is taken orally, as a tablet, after a meal.
Why am I Taking Exemestane?	Exemestane is used to treat early stage breast cancer in women who are postmenopausal (have not had a menstrual period for 1 year) and who have already been treated with tamoxifen (Nolvadex®) for 2-3 years. It is also used for women whose breast cancer has worsened while they were taking tamoxifen. Research, released in 2011, indicates that exemestane may prevent first breast cancers in moderate- to high-risk postmenopausal women.
How Does Exemestane Work?	<p>Exemestane is in a class of medications called aromatase inhibitors. It blocks the enzyme called aromatase. Aromatase changes hormones made by the adrenal glands (androgens) into estrogens.</p> <p>When aromatase stops androgens from changing into estrogen, estrogen levels go down. If the tumor(s) are one of the types of breast cancer that grow in the presence of estrogen, then lower estrogen levels may cause the tumors to grow more slowly or stop growing.</p>