

Package leaflet: Information for the user **Femara® 2.5mg tablets** (letrozole)

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

The name of your medicine is Femara 2.5mg tablets but will be referred to as Femara throughout this leaflet.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Femara is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Femara
3. How to take Femara
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Femara
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Femara is and what it is used for

What Femara is and how it works

Femara contains an active substance called letrozole. It belongs to a group of medicines called aromatase inhibitors. It is a hormonal (or 'endocrine') breast cancer treatment. Growth of breast cancer is frequently stimulated by oestrogens which are female sex hormones. Femara reduces the amount of oestrogen by blocking an enzyme ('aromatase') involved in the production of oestrogens and therefore may block the growth of breast cancer that needs oestrogens to grow. As a consequence tumour cells slow or stop growing and/or spreading to other parts of the body.

What Femara is used for

Femara is used to treat breast cancer in women who have gone through menopause i.e cessation of periods.

It is used to prevent cancer from happening again. It can be used as first treatment before breast cancer surgery in case immediate surgery is not suitable or it can be used as first treatment after breast cancer surgery or following five years treatment with tamoxifen. Femara is also used to prevent breast tumour spreading to other parts of the body in patients with advanced breast cancer.

If you have any questions about how Femara works or why this medicine has been prescribed for you, ask your doctor.

2. What you need to know before you take Femara

Follow all the doctor's instructions carefully. They may differ from the general information in this leaflet.

Do not take Femara

- if you are allergic to letrozole or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6),
- if you still have periods, i.e. if you have not yet gone through the menopause,
- if you are pregnant,
- if you are breast-feeding.

If any of these conditions apply to you, **do not take this medicine and talk to your doctor.**

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Femara

- if you have a severe kidney disease,
- if you have a severe liver disease,
- if you have a history of osteoporosis or bone fractures (see also 'Follow-up during Femara treatment' in section 3).

If any of these conditions apply to you, **tell your doctor.** Your doctor will take this into account during your treatment with Femara.

Letrozole may cause inflammation in tendons or tendon injury (see section 4). At any sign of tendon pain or swelling – rest the painful area and contact your doctor.

Children and adolescents (below 18 years)

Children and adolescents should not use this medicine.

Older people (age 65 years and over)

People aged 65 years and over can use this medicine at the same dose as for other adults.

Other medicines and Femara

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

- You should only take Femara when you have gone through the menopause. However, your doctor should discuss with you the use of effective contraception, as you may still have the potential to become pregnant during treatment with Femara.
- You must not take Femara if you are pregnant or breast-feeding as it may harm your baby.

Driving and using machines

If you feel dizzy, tired, drowsy or generally unwell, do not drive or operate any tools or machines until you feel normal again.

Femara contains lactose

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

Femara contains sodium

This medicine contains less than 1mmol sodium (23mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium free'.

3. How to take Femara

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

The usual dose is one tablet of Femara to be taken once a day. Taking Femara at the same time each day will help you remember when to take your tablet.

The tablet can be taken with or without food and should be swallowed whole with a glass of water or another liquid.

How long to take Femara

Continue taking Femara every day for as long as your doctor tells you. You may need to take it for months or even years. If you have any questions about how long to keep taking Femara, talk to your doctor.

Follow-up during Femara treatment

You should only take this medicine under strict medical supervision. Your doctor will regularly monitor your condition to check whether the treatment is having the right effect.

Femara may cause thinning or wasting of your bones (osteoporosis) due to the reduction of oestrogens in your body. Your doctor may decide to measure your bone density (a way of monitoring for osteoporosis) before, during and after treatment.

If you take more Femara than you should

If you have taken too much Femara, or if someone else accidentally takes your tablets, contact a doctor or hospital for advice immediately. Show them the pack of tablets. Medical treatment may be necessary.

If you forget to take Femara

- If it is almost time for your next dose (e.g. within 2 or 3 hours), skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

- Otherwise, take the dose as soon as you remember, and then take the next tablet as you would normally.
- Do not take a double dose to make up for the one that you missed.

If you stop taking Femara

Do not stop taking Femara unless your doctor tells you to. See also the section above 'How long to take Femara'.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Most of the side effects are mild to moderate and will generally disappear after a few days to a few weeks of treatment.

Some of these side effects, such as hot flushes, hair loss or vaginal bleeding, may be due to the lack of oestrogens in your body.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Some side effects could be serious:

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Weakness, paralysis or loss of feeling in any part of the body (particularly arm or leg), loss of coordination, nausea, or difficulty speaking or breathing (sign of a brain disorder, e.g. stroke).
- Sudden oppressive chest pain (sign of a heart disorder).
- Swelling and redness along a vein which is extremely tender and possibly painful when touched.
- Severe fever, chills or mouth ulcers due to infections (lack of white blood cells).
- Severe persistent blurred vision.

- Inflammation of a tendon or tendonitis (connective tissues that connect muscles to bones).

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Difficulty breathing, chest pain, fainting, rapid heart rate, bluish skin discoloration, or sudden arm, leg or foot pain (signs that a blood clot may have formed).
- Rupture of a tendon (connective tissues that connect muscles to bones)

If any of the above occurs, tell your doctor straight away.

You should also inform the doctor straight away if you experience any of the following symptoms during treatment with Femara:

- Swelling mainly of the face and throat (signs of allergic reaction).
- Yellow skin and eyes, nausea, loss of appetite, dark-coloured urine (signs of hepatitis).
- Rash, red skin, blistering of the lips, eyes or mouth, skin peeling, fever (signs of skin disorder).

Some side effects are very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- Hot flushes
- Increased level of cholesterol (hypercholesterolaemia)
- Fatigue
- Increased sweating
- Pain in bones and joints (arthralgia)

If any of these affects you severely, tell your doctor.

Some side effects are common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Skin rash

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Malaise (generally feeling unwell)
- Gastrointestinal disorders such as nausea, vomiting, indigestion, constipation, diarrhoea
- Increase in or loss of appetite
- Pain in muscles
- Thinning or wasting of your bones (osteoporosis), leading to bone fractures in some cases (see also 'Follow-up during Femara treatment' in section 3)
- Swelling of arms, hands, feet, ankles (oedema)
- Depression
- Weight increase
- Hair loss
- Raised blood pressure (hypertension)
- Abdominal pain
- Dry skin
- Vaginal bleeding
- Palpitations, rapid heart rate
- Joint stiffness (arthritis)
- Chest pain

If any of these affects you severely, tell your doctor.

Other side effects are uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Nervous disorders such as anxiety, nervousness, irritability, drowsiness, memory problems, somnolence, insomnia
- Pain or burning sensation in the hands or wrist (carpal tunnel syndrome)
- Impairment of sensation, especially that of touch
- Eye disorders such as blurred vision, eye irritation
- Skin disorders such as itching (urticaria)
- Vaginal discharge or dryness

- Breast pain
- Fever
- Thirst, taste disorder, dry mouth
- Dryness of mucous membranes
- Weight decrease
- Urinary tract infection, increased frequency of urination
- Cough
- Increased level of enzymes
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes
- High blood levels of bilirubin (a breakdown product of red blood cells)

Side effects with frequency not known

(frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

Trigger finger, a condition in which your finger or thumb catches in bent position.

If any of these affects you severely, tell your doctor.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the **Google Play** or **Apple App Store**. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Femara

Keep out of the sight and reach of children. Do not store above 30°C. Store in the original package to protect from moisture.

Do not take the tablets after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister labels after 'Exp'. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not use a package which is damaged or shows signs of tampering.

If the tablet becomes discoloured or shows any signs of deterioration, seek the advice of your pharmacist.

Remember if your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine; return any unused medicine to your pharmacist for safe disposal. Only keep this medicine if your doctor tells you to.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Femara contains

- Each film-coated tablet contains 2.5mg letrozole.
- The other ingredients are lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, maize starch, sodium starch glycolate, magnesium stearate and colloidal anhydrous silica.
- The coating consists of hypromellose, macrogol 8000, talc, titanium dioxide (E171), and yellow iron oxide (E172).

What Femara looks like and contents of the pack

Femara are dark yellow and round in shape. They are marked with 'FV' on one side and with 'CG' on the other side.

They come in blister packs of 30 film-coated tablets.

Manufactured by: Novartis Farma S.p.A., Via Provinciale Schito 131, 80058 Torre Annunziata NA, Italy.

OR

Novartis Farma S.p.A., Largo Umberto Boccioni 1, 21040 Origgio VA, Italy.

Procured from within the EU and repackaged by the Product Licence holder:

B&S Healthcare, Unit 4, Bradfield Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0NU, UK.

Femara® 2.5mg tablets; PL 18799/2193

Leaflet date: 14.03.2023

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Femara is the registered trademark of Novartis AG.

Blind or partially sighted?

Is this leaflet hard to see or read?

Call 0208 515 3763 to obtain the leaflet in a format suitable for you.

Package leaflet: Information for the user Letrozole 2.5mg tablets

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

The name of your medicine is Letrozole 2.5mg tablets but will be referred to as Letrozole throughout this leaflet.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Letrozole is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Letrozole
3. How to take Letrozole
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Letrozole
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Letrozole is and what it is used for

What Letrozole is and how it works

Letrozole contains an active substance called letrozole. It belongs to a group of medicines called aromatase inhibitors. It is a hormonal (or 'endocrine') breast cancer treatment. Growth of breast cancer is frequently stimulated by oestrogens which are female sex hormones. Letrozole reduces the amount of oestrogen by blocking an enzyme ('aromatase') involved in the production of oestrogens and therefore may block the growth of breast cancer that needs oestrogens to grow. As a consequence tumour cells slow or stop growing and/or spreading to other parts of the body.

What Letrozole is used for

Letrozole is used to treat breast cancer in women who have gone through menopause i.e cessation of periods.

It is used to prevent cancer from happening again. It can be used as first treatment before breast cancer surgery in case immediate surgery is not suitable or it can be used as first treatment after breast cancer surgery or following five years treatment with tamoxifen. Letrozole is also used to prevent breast tumour spreading to other parts of the body in patients with advanced breast cancer.

If you have any questions about how Letrozole works or why this medicine has been prescribed for you, ask your doctor.

2. What you need to know before you take Letrozole

Follow all the doctor's instructions carefully. They may differ from the general information in this leaflet.

Do not take Letrozole

- if you are allergic to letrozole or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6),
- if you still have periods, i.e. if you have not yet gone through the menopause,
- if you are pregnant,
- if you are breast-feeding.

If any of these conditions apply to you, **do not take this medicine and talk to your doctor.**

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Letrozole

- if you have a severe kidney disease,
- if you have a severe liver disease,
- if you have a history of osteoporosis or bone fractures (see also 'Follow-up during Letrozole treatment' in section 3).

If any of these conditions apply to you, **tell your doctor.** Your doctor will take this into account during your treatment with Letrozole.

Letrozole may cause inflammation in tendons or tendon injury (see section 4). At any sign of tendon pain or swelling – rest the painful area and contact your doctor.

Children and adolescents (below 18 years)

Children and adolescents should not use this medicine.

Older people (age 65 years and over)

People aged 65 years and over can use this medicine at the same dose as for other adults.

Other medicines and Letrozole

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

- You should only take Letrozole when you have gone through the menopause. However, your doctor should discuss with you the use of effective contraception, as you may still have the potential to become pregnant during treatment with Letrozole.
- You must not take Letrozole if you are pregnant or breast-feeding as it may harm your baby.

Driving and using machines

If you feel dizzy, tired, drowsy or generally unwell, do not drive or operate any tools or machines until you feel normal again.

Letrozole contains lactose

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

Letrozole contains sodium

This medicine contains less than 1mmol sodium (23mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium free'.

3. How to take Letrozole

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

The usual dose is one tablet of Letrozole to be taken once a day. Taking Letrozole at the same time each day will help you remember when to take your tablet.

The tablet can be taken with or without food and should be swallowed whole with a glass of water or another liquid.

How long to take Letrozole

Continue taking Letrozole every day for as long as your doctor tells you. You may need to take it for months or even years. If you have any questions about how long to keep taking Letrozole, talk to your doctor.

Follow-up during Letrozole treatment

You should only take this medicine under strict medical supervision. Your doctor will regularly monitor your condition to check whether the treatment is having the right effect.

Letrozole may cause thinning or wasting of your bones (osteoporosis) due to the reduction of oestrogens in your body. Your doctor may decide to measure your bone density (a way of monitoring for osteoporosis) before, during and after treatment.

If you take more Letrozole than you should

If you have taken too much Letrozole, or if someone else accidentally takes your tablets, contact a doctor or hospital for advice immediately. Show them the pack of tablets. Medical treatment may be necessary.

If you forget to take Letrozole

- If it is almost time for your next dose (e.g. within 2 or 3 hours), skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

- Otherwise, take the dose as soon as you remember, and then take the next tablet as you would normally.
- Do not take a double dose to make up for the one that you missed.

If you stop taking Letrozole

Do not stop taking Letrozole unless your doctor tells you to. See also the section above 'How long to take Letrozole'.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Most of the side effects are mild to moderate and will generally disappear after a few days to a few weeks of treatment.

Some of these side effects, such as hot flushes, hair loss or vaginal bleeding, may be due to the lack of oestrogens in your body.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Some side effects could be serious:

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Weakness, paralysis or loss of feeling in any part of the body (particularly arm or leg), loss of coordination, nausea, or difficulty speaking or breathing (sign of a brain disorder, e.g. stroke).
- Sudden oppressive chest pain (sign of a heart disorder).
- Swelling and redness along a vein which is extremely tender and possibly painful when touched.
- Severe fever, chills or mouth ulcers due to infections (lack of white blood cells).
- Severe persistent blurred vision.

- Inflammation of a tendon or tendonitis (connective tissues that connect muscles to bones).

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Difficulty breathing, chest pain, fainting, rapid heart rate, bluish skin discoloration, or sudden arm, leg or foot pain (signs that a blood clot may have formed).
- Rupture of a tendon (connective tissues that connect muscles to bones)

If any of the above occurs, tell your doctor straight away.

You should also inform the doctor straight away if you experience any of the following symptoms during treatment with Letrozole:

- Swelling mainly of the face and throat (signs of allergic reaction).
- Yellow skin and eyes, nausea, loss of appetite, dark-coloured urine (signs of hepatitis).
- Rash, red skin, blistering of the lips, eyes or mouth, skin peeling, fever (signs of skin disorder).

Some side effects are very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- Hot flushes
- Increased level of cholesterol (hypercholesterolaemia)
- Fatigue
- Increased sweating
- Pain in bones and joints (arthralgia)

If any of these affects you severely, tell your doctor.

Some side effects are common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Skin rash

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Malaise (generally feeling unwell)
- Gastrointestinal disorders such as nausea, vomiting, indigestion, constipation, diarrhoea
- Increase in or loss of appetite
- Pain in muscles
- Thinning or wasting of your bones (osteoporosis), leading to bone fractures in some cases (see also 'Follow-up during Letrozole treatment' in section 3)
- Swelling of arms, hands, feet, ankles (oedema)
- Depression
- Weight increase
- Hair loss
- Raised blood pressure (hypertension)
- Abdominal pain
- Dry skin
- Vaginal bleeding
- Palpitations, rapid heart rate
- Joint stiffness (arthritis)
- Chest pain

If any of these affects you severely, tell your doctor.

Other side effects are uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Nervous disorders such as anxiety, nervousness, irritability, drowsiness, memory problems, somnolence, insomnia
- Pain or burning sensation in the hands or wrist (carpal tunnel syndrome)
- Impairment of sensation, especially that of touch
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Side effects with frequency not known

(frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

Trigger finger, a condition in which your finger or thumb catches in bent position.

If any of these affects you severely, tell your doctor.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the **Google Play** or **Apple App Store**. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Letrozole

Keep out of the sight and reach of children. Do not store above 30°C. Store in the original package to protect from moisture.

Do not take the tablets after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister labels after 'Exp'. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not use a package which is damaged or shows signs of tampering.

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Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Letrozole contains

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- The other ingredients are lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, maize starch, sodium starch glycolate, magnesium stearate and colloidal anhydrous silica.
- The coating consists of hypromellose, macrogol 8000, talc, titanium dioxide (E171), and yellow iron oxide (E172).

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