

Bicalutamide (Casodex)

About This Medicine

BICALUTAMIDE (bye ka LOO ta mide) treats prostate cancer. It works by blocking the effect of testosterone and other hormones in your body, which may slow or stop cancer cells from spreading or growing. It is given orally (by mouth).

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your care team if you have questions.

Possible Side Effects

- Decrease in red blood cells. This may make you feel more tired.
- Nausea
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Swelling of your legs, ankles and/or feet
- Weakness
- Infection
- Pain (general, abdomen, pelvic and back)
- Blood in your urine
- Frequent urination at night
- Trouble breathing
- Hot flashes or sudden skin flushing may happen. You may also feel warm or red.

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in greater than 10% of people treated with bicalutamide. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your care team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Changes in your liver function, which can cause liver failure and be life-threatening.
- Swelling of your breasts and/or breast pain
- Blood sugar levels may change if this medicine is taken together with a LHRH agonist.

- In people on warfarin, severe abnormal bleeding may occur – symptoms may be coughing up blood, throwing up blood (may look like coffee grounds), red or black tarry bowel movements, abnormally heavy menstrual flow, nosebleeds, or any other unusual bleeding.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your care team.

Important Information

- Do not stop taking bicalutamide or the LHRH agonist medicine if your care team prescribed it without first talking with your care team.
- This medicine may impair your ability to drive or use machinery. Use caution and talk to your care team about any precautions you may need to take.
- This medicine can cause sensitivity to sunlight/light. You may get a skin rash/reaction if you are in the sun or are exposed to sun lamps and tanning beds.

How to Take Your Medicine

- Swallow the medicine whole with or without food. Take this medicine at the same time each day.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, take your next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time and do not double up on the next dose.
- **Overdosage:** If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands with soap and water, before and after handling your medicine. Your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- This medicine may be present in the urine, stool and other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your care team after your treatment. If you take a pill each day, follow these precautions every day.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medicine label. Some facilities have take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your care team how to dispose of unused medicine.

Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your care team about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.



- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid). Eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your care team before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- Ask your care team about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea and/or constipation.
- If you have diabetes, keep good control of your blood sugar level. Tell your care team if your glucose levels are higher or lower than normal.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when you are outdoors even for a short time. Cover up when you are out in the sun. Wear wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants. Keep your neck, chest, and back covered.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- This medicine may interact with grapefruit and grapefruit juice. Talk to your care team as this could make side effects worse.
- Check with your care team about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with bicalutamide. Also, check with your care team before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
- There are known interactions of bicalutamide with blood thinning medicine such as warfarin. Ask your care team what precautions you should take.

When to Call the Care team

Call your care team if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Tiredness and/or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)
- Swelling of your legs, ankles and/or feet
- Breast tenderness



- Blood in urine
- Abnormal blood sugar
- Unusual thirst, passing urine often, headache, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Frequent urination at night
- Pain that does not go away or is not relieved by prescribed medicine
- Develop sensitivity to sunlight/light
- Signs of abnormal bleeding such as coughing up blood, throwing up blood (may look like coffee grounds), easy bleeding or bruising, red or black tarry bowel movements, abnormally heavy menstrual flow, nosebleeds, or any other unusual bleeding
- Signs of infection: fever or chills, cough, trouble breathing, severe pain in your abdomen, trouble urinating, burning or pain when you pass urine, redness and/or swelling of the skin
- If you think you may have impregnated your partner

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Bicalutamide is not indicated for use in women. Men with female partners of child-bearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for 130 days after stopping treatment. Let your care team know right away if you think you may have impregnated your partner.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this medicine passes into breast milk. Bicalutamide is not indicated for use in women.
- **Fertility Warning:** In men, this medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. Talk with your care team if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm banking.

Revised October 2024

