

Medication Information Sheet

flutamide

 (FLUTE-am-eyed)

This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.

Other name: Euflex®

Appearance: tablet

What it is used for

- For treating prostate cancer, usually used with another family of drugs that reduce testosterone production

Before receiving it

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you have/had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had liver or heart problems (including irregular heartbeat), diabetes, bone loss/osteoporosis or any allergies.
- This drug contains a small amount of lactose. If you cannot tolerate lactose, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.
- People who have cancer or leukemia are at a higher risk of developing other cancers/leukemias (usually some years later) or blood clots. Some cancer medications may increase these risks, especially if used for a prolonged period of time. You should discuss any concerns with your doctor.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

- Flutamide should not be used by women.
- In the laboratory, this drug may harm or affect the embryos/offspring of animals exposed to it.
- While this may not be directly applicable to you, if there is **ANY** chance that you/your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must: ► **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time while taking this drug:** Keep using birth control until at least **6 months** (general recommendation) after the last dose. Discuss with your healthcare team.
- Effects on Fertility: Probable

How it is given

- This medication is usually taken three times a day (every 8 hours) by mouth.
- Take it exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the instructions.
- Take the dose at about the same time(s) each day.
- Swallow whole with a glass of water, with or without food.
- If a dose is missed, skip this and take the next dose as scheduled. Never double the dose to make up for the missed one.

- Drinking alcohol while taking flutamide may produce excessive facial flushing. Avoid drinking alcohol if this becomes bothersome.

While receiving it

- This drug can interact with other drugs, and can result in the drugs not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your doctor and pharmacist know about all your medicines (prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and supplements). Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting or stopping any of them.

Safety / Storage

- Store in the original packaging at room temperature, away from heat, light or moisture. Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- Do not throw out any unused drugs at home. Bring them to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

Side effects and what to do

The following side effects are common or severe. You may not have all of the side effects listed, while others not on this list may also occur. Discuss with your doctor if you have any unusual or bothersome symptoms.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Most Common Side Effects	
<p>Diarrhea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of clear fluids. Limit hot, spicy, fried foods, foods/drinks with caffeine, orange or prune juice. Try a low-fiber BRAT diet (Bananas, white Rice, Apple sauce, Toast made with white bread). • Take anti-diarrhea drug(s) if given to you by your doctor. • Also see Diarrhea pamphlet.* 	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
<p>Increased sweating, feelings of warmth (hot flashes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid triggers such as alcohol, caffeine (tea, coffee, cola), chocolate, hot & spicy food, stress and heat. • Exercise regularly. Keep cool; dress lightly, drink plenty of water. May improve over time. <p>Other symptoms of having low testosterone levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impotence • Breast swelling or tenderness • Decrease in sexual desire • Bladder infections 	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
<p>Nausea and vomiting (generally mild)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink clear fluids and avoid large meals. Get fresh air and rest. • Limit spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell. 	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe

*The most updated version and more symptom control information can be found on: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo>
 Prepared with input from the Cancer Care Ontario-Medication Information Sheets Working Group.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take anti-nausea drug(s) exactly as directed by your doctor. It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it. • Contact your doctor if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting for more than 24 hours. • Also see Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet.* 	
Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
Abnormal liver lab tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your doctor will monitor these regularly. Call your doctor if you have yellowish skin or eyes, or unusual dark urine. 	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Blockage of an artery (blood vessel) in your heart, brain, chest, belly, or limbs; this may result in stroke (sudden loss of vision, speech, or the use of your limb(s)) or heart attack (chest pain, shortness of breath), or pain in chest, belly or limb Blood clot (limb pain or swelling, hardened vein in limb), may occur in lungs (sudden start of coughing, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)	Get emergency medical help right away
Lupus-like syndrome (an immune disorder with skin rash, may also affect joints (swelling/tenderness) and other organs such as kidneys)	Contact doctor as soon as possible (office hours)
Heart problems (irregular heartbeat, chest pain, fainting, swelling in legs/ankles/belly, shortness of breath)	Get emergency medical help right away
Rapid breakdown of red blood cells (yellowing of the skin or eyes and/or red-brown urine)	Get emergency medical help right away
Bone pain; Bone loss	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Lung problems (increased cough, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)	Get emergency medical help right away
Severe rash, may occur on the body/limbs with blistering or peeling of skin	Get emergency medical help right away

The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.

A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.