

TAMOXIFEN CITRATE

Tamoxifene Citrate is approved for use to treat some types of breast cancer in men and women. It is also used to lower a woman's chance of developing breast cancer if she has a high risk (such as a family history of breast cancer).

Chemical: Tamoxifen citrate
CAS Name: (Z)-2-[4-(1,2-Diphenyl-1-butenyl)phenoxy]-N,N-dimethyl-ethanamine-citrate; 1-p-beta-Dimethylaminoethoxyphenyl-trans-1,2-diphenylbut-1-ene citrate
Molecular Formula: C₂₆H₂₉NO.C₆H₈O₇
Molecular Weight: 563.64

Prescription Medicine

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Tamoxifen is used to treat different types of breast cancer in men and women. It is also used to lower a woman's chance of developing breast cancer if she has a high risk (such as a family history of breast cancer).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Tamoxifen should not be used if there is any allergy to it. Tamoxifen should not be used to reduce your risk of breast cancer if blood thinners, such as warfarin (Coumadin, Jantoven) are used at the same time.

Do not take tamoxifen if you are pregnant. It could harm the unborn baby. Avoid becoming pregnant while you are using this medicine, and for at least 2 months after your treatment ends.

Hormonal contraception (such as birth control pills, injections, implants, skin patches and vaginal rings) may not be effective enough to prevent pregnancy while taking tamoxifen. Ask your doctor about using non-hormonal birth control (condom, diaphragm with spermicide, or intrauterine device/IUD). If you are taking tamoxifen to reduce your risk of breast cancer, you may need to take your first dose while you are having a menstrual period. You may also need to have a pregnancy test before you start taking tamoxifen, to make sure you are not pregnant. Follow your doctor's instructions.

Taking tamoxifen may increase the risk of uterine cancer, stroke, or a blood clot in the lung, which can be fatal. Talk with your doctor about your specific risks in taking this medicine.

To make sure tamoxifen is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- a history of stroke or blood clot;
- liver disease;
- high cholesterol or triglycerides (a type of fat in the blood);
- a history of cataracts; or if you are receiving chemotherapy or radiation.

It is not known whether tamoxifen passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. This medicine may slow breast milk production. You should not breast-feed while taking tamoxifen.

DRUG INTERACTIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS

Because of the way tamoxifen acts on the body, there is a chance that it might cause unwanted effects that may not occur until months or years after the medicine is used. Tamoxifen increases the chance of cancer of the uterus (womb) in some women taking it. Tamoxifen may cause blockages to form in a vein, lung, or brain. In women, tamoxifen may cause cancer or other problems of the uterus (womb). It also causes liver cancer in rats. In addition, tamoxifen has been reported to cause cataracts and other eye problems. Discuss these possible effects with your doctor.

As well as its needed effects, tamoxifen may cause unwanted side effects that require medical attention.

If any of the following side effects occur while taking tamoxifen, check with your doctor immediately:

Less common or rare side effects:

- anxiety
- blistering, peeling, or loosening of the skin and mucous membranes
- blurred vision
- cataracts in the eyes or other eye problems
- change in vaginal discharge
- chest pain
- chills
- confusion
- cough
- dizziness
- fainting
- fast heartbeat
- fever
- hoarseness
- pain or swelling in the legs
- sweating

Some tamoxifen side effects may not need any medical attention.

As your body gets used to the medicine these side effects may disappear. Your health-care professional may be able to help you prevent or reduce these side effects, but do check with them if any of the following side effects continue, or if you are concerned about them:

More common side effects:

- feeling of warmth
- menstrual changes
- noisy, rattling breathing
- redness of the face, neck, arms and occasionally, upper chest

- skin changes
- stopping of menstrual bleeding
- swelling of the fingers, hands, feet, or lower legs
- troubled breathing at rest
- weight gain or loss
- white or brownish vaginal discharge

Less common or rare side effects:

- abdominal or stomach cramps
- black, tarry stools
- bleeding gums
- blood in the urine or stools
- bluish color changes in skin color
- trouble concentrating
- trouble with sleeping
- unusual bleeding or bruising.

DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

Usual Adult Dose for Breast Cancer

For the treatment of metastatic breast cancer in women and men: 20 to 40 mg orally Dosages greater than 20 mg should be given in divided doses (morning and evening).

For the treatment of women with Ductal Carcinoma in Situ, following breast surgery and radiation:

20 mg orally daily for 5 years.

To reduce the incidence of breast cancer in women at high risk for breast cancer:

20 mg orally daily for 5 years.

STORAGE

Store at room temperature between 59-86 degrees Fahrenheit (15-30 degrees Celsius) away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets. Do not flush medications down the toilet or pour them into a drain unless instructed to do so. Properly discard this product when it is expired or no longer needed. Consult your pharmacist or local waste disposal company for more details about how to safely discard your product.

PRESENTATION:

20mg tablets in blister packs of 10 tablets – 5 blisters per box (50 tablets).

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