Arimidex

Generic Name: anastrozole

Drug Class: Hormone Therapy Medications

Company: ANI-AstraZeneca

Approval Status: Approved

Generic Version Available: Yes

Drug Indication

Arimidex is an aromatase inhibitor approved for adjuvant (post-surgery) treatment of hormone receptor-positive (HR+) early breast cancer and first-line or subsequent treatment of HR+ advanced or metastatic breast cancer in postmenopausal women.

General Info



The female hormone estrogen stimulates the growth of hormone receptor-positive breast cancer. Aromatase inhibitors block an enzyme that converts other hormones, known as androgens, into estrogen. They do not stop the ovaries from producing estrogen, so premenopausal women should only use them with other drugs that suppress ovarian function.

Studies show that aromatase inhibitors like Arimidex work better than tamoxifen for reducing the risk of recurrence after initial treatment of early breast cancer with surgery, radiation or chemotherapy. Arimidex was first approved in 1995.

Dosage

Dosing Info: Arimidex is taken as a once-daily tablet.

Side Effects

Common side effects include hot flashes, muscle and joint pain, vaginal dryness, nausea and vomiting, headache, skin rash and swelling. Potential serious side effects include cardiovascular problems, bone loss (osteoporosis) and elevated cholesterol. Arimidex should not be used during pregnancy.

For More Info: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2011/020541s026lbl.pdf

Patient Assistance Program Info: https://www.arimidex.com

Last Reviewed: December 6, 2018

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