

ning to become pregnant; that product carries risk to fetus and potential loss of pregnancy; that females of reproductive potential must use effective contraception during treatment and for ≥ 7 mo after last dose; not to breastfeed during treatment or for ≥ 1 mo after receiving the last dose; that male patients with female partners of reproductive potential or who are pregnant should use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 4 mo after receiving the last dose

- To notify health care provider of nausea, vomiting to obtain options to lessen these side effects
- To notify health care provider of all Rx, OTC, herbals or supplements taken; not to add or change medications unless approved by provider

⚠ HIGH ALERT

tamoxifen (Rx)

(ta-mox'i-fen)

Nolvadex-D , Tamofen ,
Tamone , Tamoplex 

Func. class.: Antineoplastic

Chem. class.: Antiestrogen hormone

ACTION: Inhibits cell division by binding to cytoplasmic estrogen receptors; resembles normal cell complex but inhibits DNA synthesis and estrogen response of target tissue

USES: Advanced breast carcinoma not responsive to other therapy in estrogen-receptor–positive patients (usually postmenopausal), prevention of breast cancer, after breast surgery/radiation for ductal carcinoma in situ

Unlabeled uses: Mastalgia, to reduce pain/size of gynecomastia

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Pregnancy, breastfeeding, hypersensitivity

Black Box Warning: Thromboembolic disease, endometrial cancer, stroke

Precautions: Women of childbearing age, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, cataracts

Black Box Warning: Uterine cancer

DOSAGE AND ROUTES

Breast cancer (men/women)

- **Adult: PO** 20–40 mg/day for 5 yr; doses >20 mg/day, divide AM/PM

High risk for breast cancer

- **Adult: PO** 20 mg/day \times 5 yr

Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)

- **Adult: PO** 20 mg/day \times 5 yr

Mastalgia/gynecomastia in men with prostate cancer (unlabeled)

- **Adult (male): PO** 20 mg/day for ≤ 1 yr

Available forms: Tabs 10, 20 mg; oral solution 10 mg/5 mL

Administer:

- Do not break, crush, or chew tabs
- Antacid before oral agent; give product after evening meal, before bedtime; give with food or fluids for GI symptoms
- Antiemetic 30–60 min before product to prevent vomiting
- Store in light-resistant container at room temperature

Oral solution: Use calibrated container; dose >20 mg/day should be divided morning and evening, may be used with food for gastric irritation

SIDE EFFECTS

CNS: *Hot flashes, headache, light-headedness*, depression, mood changes, **stroke**

CV: Chest pain, **stroke**, fluid retention, flushing

EENT: Blurred vision (high doses)

GI: *Nausea, vomiting*, altered taste

GU: Vaginal bleeding, **uterine malignancies**, *altered menses, amenorrhea*

HEMA: **Thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, DVT**

INTEG: *Rash*, alopecia

META: Hypercalcemia

RESP: **Pulmonary embolism**

PHARMACOKINETICS

PO: Peak 4–7 hr, half-life 7 days (1 wk terminal), metabolized in liver, excreted primarily in feces