

ARIMIDEX is an aromatase inhibitor with over 8 years of clinical data — 5 years on treatment and more than 3 years of follow-up that demonstrate efficacy and safety in the initial treatment of hormone-receptor positive, early breast cancer in postmenopausal women.



- Learn about ARIMIDEX
- The science of ARIMIDEX
- Side effect profile

ARIMIDEX is made by AstraZeneca, the same company that discovered Tamoxifen and the company that has a 30-year history of helping women with breast cancer.

Learn about ARIMIDEX

If you have been newly diagnosed with breast cancer or are new to hormonal treatment, it's time to learn how ARIMIDEX may help reduce your risk of breast cancer recurrence.

ARIMIDEX is a prescription medicine approved for **postmenopausal** women with **hormone receptor-positive** early breast cancer. ARIMIDEX is a **hormonal treatment** that helps fight breast cancer by lowering the amount of the hormone estrogen in the body.

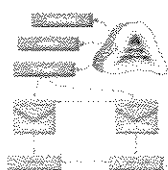
Ask your doctor about ARIMIDEX, the most prescribed aromatase inhibitor.*

**IMS National Prescription Audit Plus: Therapeutic Category Report. February 2008.*

[Learn more about the early breast cancer study \(called the "ATAC trial"\)](#)

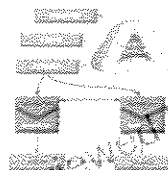
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The science of ARIMIDEX



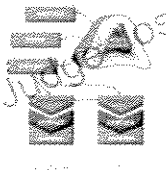
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In a complex series of reactions, the adrenal gland makes certain hormones, including androgens (male hormones) and estrogens (female hormones)



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When women have gone through menopause, their ovaries no longer make estrogen. Most of their estrogen is created by changing the androgens to estrogens. An enzyme called aromatase helps in this process. Androgens change to estrogens in various places in the body, such as in muscle, fat, and the liver, and also in breast tumors



[Click to enlarge](#)

Some breast cancer tumors grow when the hormone estrogen is present. ARIMIDEX binds to aromatase, stopping — or inhibiting — aromatase activity and the production of estrogen. For this reason, ARIMIDEX is called an aromatase inhibitor

» ARIMIDEX significantly lowers the concentration of certain estrogens in your body.

[See how ARIMIDEX works](#)

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Side effect profile

Last viewed by Judge Joseph E. Irenas on August 18, 2009

Possible Side Effects of ARIMIDEX




Based on information from a study in patients with early breast cancer, women with a history of blockages in heart arteries (ischemic heart disease) who take ARIMIDEX may have a slight increase in this type of heart disease compared to similar patients who take tamoxifen.

ARIMIDEX can cause bone softening/weakening (osteoporosis) increasing the chance of fractures. In a clinical study in early breast cancer, there were more fractures (including fractures of the spine, hip, and wrist) with ARIMIDEX (10%) than with tamoxifen (7%).

In a clinical study in early breast cancer, some patients taking ARIMIDEX had an increase in cholesterol. Skin reactions, allergic reactions, and changes in blood tests of liver function have also been reported.

In the early breast cancer clinical trial, the most common side effects seen with ARIMIDEX include hot flashes, joint symptoms (including arthritis and arthralgia), weakness, mood changes, pain, back pain, sore throat, nausea and vomiting, rash, depression, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, fractures, swelling of arms/legs, insomnia, and headache.

Patients taking ARIMIDEX were less likely than those taking tamoxifen to stop treatment because of side effects. See Important Safety Information below, and talk to your doctor to see if ARIMIDEX is right for you.

-  [Learn about the side effect profile of ARIMIDEX compared to tamoxifen](#)
-  [ARIMIDEX can also be used to treat locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer. Learn more about treatment for advanced breast cancer](#)
-  [Get the free ARIMIDEX guide for patients](#)

- Prescription ARIMIDEX is only for postmenopausal women. ARIMIDEX should not be taken if you are pregnant because it may harm your unborn child
- ARIMIDEX should not be taken with tamoxifen or estrogen-containing therapies

Please see full Prescribing Information. For more information, see your doctor.

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Important Information About ARIMIDEX

ARIMIDEX is approved for adjuvant treatment (treatment following surgery with or without radiation) of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive early breast cancer.

ARIMIDEX is approved for the initial treatment of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive or hormone receptor-unknown locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer and for the treatment of postmenopausal women with advanced breast cancer that has progressed following treatment with tamoxifen. Patients with hormone receptor-negative disease and patients who did not previously respond to tamoxifen therapy rarely responded to ARIMIDEX.

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In advanced breast cancer trials, the most common side effects seen with ARIMIDEX versus tamoxifen include hot flashes, nausea, decreased energy and weakness, pain, back pain, headache, bone pain, increased cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and swelling of arms and legs. Joint pain/stiffness has been reported in association with the use of ARIMIDEX.

ARIMIDEX should not be taken with tamoxifen or estrogen-containing therapies.

Please click here for full Prescribing Information.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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How AROMASIN works

Hormonal therapy and breast cancer.

Most breast cancer cells may need the hormone estrogen to grow. That's why they may be called estrogen-dependent or estrogen-receptor positive (ER+) cancers.

Both tamoxifen and AROMASIN® (exemestane tablets) are hormonal therapies, meaning they interfere with the normal function of estrogen. But there is a difference in how they work.

Tamoxifen blocks estrogen from attaching itself to breast cancer cells. AROMASIN helps stop the production of estrogen in postmenopausal women. AROMASIN can lower the amount of estrogen in postmenopausal women by 98%. Less estrogen may mean less risk of estrogen-dependent tumor growth. It is important to note that no significant survival benefit was seen over tamoxifen therapy.

See how AROMASIN and tamoxifen work.

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AROMASIN is not an HRT

If you are past menopause, you may also have heard about hormone replacement therapy (HRT). It helps women with the symptoms of menopause by increasing the amount of estrogen in their bodies. AROMASIN is not an HRT. It is a hormonal therapy that decreases the production of estrogen. These two therapies are very different. Let your doctor know about any medications or supplements you are taking.

[Next: How to take AROMASIN](#)