TAMOXIFEN

ta-mox-ih-fen

What does it do?

Tamoxifen is used to treat breast cancer. Some breast cancers need the hormone oestrogen to grow. *Tamoxifen* reduces the effects of oestrogen, which slows cancer growth.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have liver problems, endometriosis or uterine fibroids, or if you have ever had a stroke, 'mini-stoke' or blood clot.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *tamoxifen* regularly as directed with a glass of water.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (e.g. St John's wort) or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Symptoms of a blood clot including: sudden shortness of breath, swelling or pain in one leg	Tell your doctor immediately
Unexpected vaginal bleeding, changes in periods Changes in vision	Tell your doctor
Hot flushing Hair loss or thinning Vaginal discharge	Tell your doctor if troublesome
Stomach upset	Take with food and tell your doctor if symptoms continue

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Prepared by the MyMedicines Committee at Christchurch Hospital, Te Whatu Ora - Waitaha, New Zealand. March 2023