

# FLUTAMIDE

Other names: Flutamin®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

## Why you are taking this medicine

Flutamide is an anti-androgen medicine (stops male sex hormones from working). It is prescribed for adult males with prostate cancer. Androgens (male sex hormones), for example testosterone, can increase the growth of prostate cancer. By taking Flutamide this can slow the growth, or reduce the size of the cancer. Flutamide can also help to reduce symptom 'flares' and side-effects from other cancer treatments, or after prostate surgery. Flutamide is sometimes administered with another hormonal medicine to treat prostate cancer.

## When to take this medicine

Flutamide is usually taken as one tablet every eight hours (three times a day). Swallow the tablets whole with a glass of water. It does not matter if flutamide is taken before or after food.

**DO NOT STOP** taking it without your doctor's permission.

## If you miss a dose

If you miss a dose of this medicine take it as soon as possible except when it is close to the time of your next dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

## Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- dark urine
- chest pain
- fluid retention e.g. swelling of legs or ankles
- mood changes
- blurred vision
- yellowing of the skin and/or eyes
- extreme weakness

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- tiredness
- difficulty sleeping
- increase in appetite
- enlarged or tender breasts, or breast secretions
- decreased sexual activity
- gastrointestinal (stomach) upsets such as nausea and/or vomiting

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of concern to you.

Flutamide may change the colour of your urine (pee). It may become an intense yellow, amber or a yellow-green colour. This is not a cause for concern.

Let your doctor know if you have a serious liver problem before you start taking flutamide. They may wish to take blood tests to monitor your liver whilst you are taking flutamide.

### **Other Medicines**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

When flutamide is taken with:

- alcohol: this can make facial flushing worse
- anticoagulants: require close monitoring e.g. warfarin - flutamide can increase the anticoagulant effects of warfarin

### **Storage**

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.**