

# Arimidex (anastrozole) basics

**Treats breast cancer in postmenopausal women** Arimidex (anastrozole) is one of the first-line treatments for breast cancer that helps improve survival rates, but it is used only in post-menopausal women.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Arimidex (anastrozole)</b> Drug effectiveness		[Blue bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
<b>Possible side effects†</b>	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Stomach pain</b>		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
<b>Hot flashes</b>		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
<b>Joint inflammation</b>				[Red bar spanning Months]	
<b>Headache</b>	[Red bar spanning Hours]				
<b>Fatigue</b>		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
<b>Nausea</b>	[Red bar spanning Hours]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Take Arimidex (anastrozole) with or without food.
- Do not skip doses. Take Arimidex (anastrozole) regularly and as prescribed by your doctor, even if you start to feel better.
- Talk with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new medicines, supplements or vitamins since Arimidex (anastrozole) can interact with lots of other medicines.
- Arimidex (anastrozole) can cause side effects similar to menopausal symptoms like hot flashes and headaches. Stay away from alcohol, caffeine or smoking which can make increase these symptoms.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.