

Casodex (bicalutamide) basics

Helps treat metastatic prostate cancer. Casodex (bicalutamide) treats later stages of prostate cancer in combination with another medication, but it can cause hot flashes.

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
Casodex (bicalutamide) Drug effectiveness		[Blue bar indicating effectiveness from Day 1 to Month 3]			
Possible side effects					
General pain 35% chance		[Red bar indicating onset from Day 1 to Month 3]			
Weakness 22% chance		[Red bar indicating onset from Day 1 to Month 3]			
Stomach pain 11% chance		[Red bar indicating onset from Day 1 to Month 3]			
Constipation 22% chance		[Red bar indicating onset from Day 1 to Month 3]			
Nausea 15% chance	[Red bar indicating onset from Hour 1 to Day 1]				
Hot flashes 53% chance	[Red bar indicating onset from Hour 1 to Day 1]				

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Casodex (bicalutamide) at the same time each day, either in the morning or in the evening. It can be taken with or without food.
- Avoid driving and doing tasks that require you to be alert until you know how Casodex (bicalutamide) affects you.
- Casodex (bicalutamide) makes you more sensitive to the sun. Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun, sunlamps, or tanning beds while on treatment. Use SPF 30 sunscreen and wear protective clothing and eyewear.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as possible. If it is close to the time of your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal schedule. Don't take two doses at once.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Liver disease

Casodex (bicalutamide) can damage your liver. This is more likely to happen within the first 3 to 4 months of treatment. Your doctor will draw your blood regularly to monitor your liver function. Talk to your doctor if you experience severe abdominal pain, dark urine, or pale stools.

Development of breasts and breast pain

Casodex (bicalutamide) causes enlargement of breast tissue in males, which causes pain and sensitivity. Talk to your doctor if you notice this occurring.

Changes in fertility

Casodex (bicalutamide) blocks testosterone, which can lower sperm count and affect your fertility. Talk to your doctor if you're planning to start a family before starting Casodex (bicalutamide).