

# Divigel (Estradiol gel) basics

**Relieves hot flashes due to menopause.** Divigel (Estradiol gel) is an easy to use medicine that comes in 3 different strengths. It uses lower doses of estrogen than other hormone replacements.

## 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>Divigel (Estradiol gel)</b> Drug effectiveness			[Blue bar spanning Weeks and Months]		
<b>Possible side effects</b>					
<b>Common cold</b> 6% chance vs. 4% placebo*				[Red bar spanning Months]	
<b>Lung infection</b> 6% chance vs. 2% placebo*				[Red bar spanning Months]	
<b>Yeast infection†</b>			[Red bar spanning Weeks and Months]		
<b>Breast pain</b> 3% chance vs. 2% placebo*			[Red bar spanning Weeks]		
<b>Unusual vaginal bleeding</b> 4% chance vs. 2% placebo*			[Red bar spanning Weeks and Months]		

\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Apply all of the gel in the packet to dry, clean, unbroken skin on the right or left upper thigh, alternating each day.
- Don't put it on your face, breasts, vagina, or irritated skin.
- Don't rub it in. Let the gel dry before dressing, and don't get the area where you applied it wet for at least an hour.
- Wash your hands well after applying the gel.
- The gel is alcohol-based and flammable, so you shouldn't smoke while applying it.
- Tell your doctor about any unusual vaginal bleeding.

## Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Endometrial cancer

Vaginal bleeding after menopause can be a warning sign of uterus (endometrial) cancer, so let your doctor know if you notice any unusual bleeding. Using medicines like Divigel (Estradiol gel) for more than a year can increase your risk. Talk to your doctor about other medicines you can take with Divigel (Estradiol gel) to protect yourself from cancer if you are worried.

### Breast cancer

Divigel (Estradiol gel) might make you more likely to have breast cancer. You're at greater risk if you or your family have had breast cancer before or if you've used Divigel (Estradiol gel) or similar medicines for a year. Talk to your doctor about ways to protect yourself.

### Increased risk of blood clots and stroke

Divigel (Estradiol gel) can raise your risk of blood clots, which can be very dangerous. You're more likely to have them if you smoke tobacco, are obese, or if you or your family have ever had blood clots. Get medical care right away if you have pain in your legs or arms, bad headaches, trouble breathing, or sudden changes in your speech or vision.