

# Fortesta (testosterone) basics

**Treats low testosterone.** Fortesta (testosterone) is a convenient topical form of testosterone hormone replacement, but it can be spread to another person if skin-to-skin contact occurs.

## 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>Fortesta (testosterone)</b> Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
<b>Possible side effects†</b>	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Skin reactions</b>	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
<b>Abnormal dreams</b>		[Red gradient bar from Days to Weeks]			

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Before you use your first dose, prime the pump by holding the canister upright and pumping 8 times. This portion of the medication can be discarded.
- Don't swim or bathe for at least 2 hours after you apply Fortesta (testosterone).
- Wash your hands with soap and water, and cover the area with clothing as soon as the gel is dry so it doesn't spread.
- If you think you'll have skin-to-skin contact at the area where you've placed testosterone gel, wash that area with soap and water then dry.
- Don't use Fortesta (testosterone) anywhere besides your front and inner thighs.

## 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.

### Virilization from secondary exposure

Fortesta (testosterone) can be transferred to another person by skin-to-skin contact with the application site. Virilization has occurred in children after contact with unwashed or unclothed application sites of men who use topical testosterone. Be sure to follow the instructions of use in order to prevent this from happening. Children and women should avoid contact with application sites of men using Fortesta (testosterone). Signs and symptoms include enlargement of the penis or clitoris, development of pubic hair, increased erections and libido, aggressive behavior, and advanced bone age. If you notice any of these signs, talk to your doctor immediately.

### Blood clots

People using Fortesta (testosterone) have had blood clots in the legs and lungs. This is rare, but can be very serious and life-threatening. Call your doctor immediately if you suddenly have trouble breathing, pain, swelling, or redness in one of your legs.

### Swelling in the legs

If you're taking Fortesta (testosterone), and you notice swelling in your legs, or a sudden increase in your weight, talk to your doctor. This can be a serious side effect involving your heart or liver.