

FOR THE PATIENT: Medroxyprogesterone Tablets

Other names: PROVERA®

- **Medroxyprogesterone** (meh-DROX-ee-proe-JESS-ter-own) is a drug that is used to treat some kinds of cancer. It is a progestin type of female hormone. Medroxyprogesterone is a tablet that you take by mouth.
- It is important to **take** medroxyprogesterone exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. Medroxyprogesterone may be taken **with food or on an empty stomach** with a glass of water or juice.
- For once a day dosing: If you **miss a dose** of medroxyprogesterone, take it as soon as you can if it is within 12 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.
- **Store** medroxyprogesterone tablets out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light and moisture.
- Other drugs such as aminoglutethimide or rifampin may **interact** with medroxyprogesterone. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) will not affect the safety or usefulness of medroxyprogesterone.
- For women: Medroxyprogesterone may cause **menopause** in women which may be permanent. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with medroxyprogesterone.
- For women: Medroxyprogesterone may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. Ask your doctor if your dose of medroxyprogesterone will act as **birth control** or if you need to use another form of birth control. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.
- **Tell** doctors or dentists that you are being treated with medroxyprogesterone before you receive any treatment from them.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Swelling of hands, feet or lower legs occur if your body retains extra fluid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Elevate your feet when sitting. ·Avoid tight clothing.
Blood clots can sometimes occur. This is more likely to happen if you have had blood clots before. Signs to watch for include tenderness or hardness over a vein; calf tenderness; sudden onset of cough, chest pain or shortness of breath.	To help prevent blood clots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Keep active. ·Drink plenty of fluids. ·Avoid tight clothing. ·Do not sit with your legs crossed at the knees.
Breast swelling , soreness and/or leaking from the nipple may occur.	This will return to normal when you stop taking medroxyprogesterone.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
You may gain or lose weight due to a change in appetite. Weight gain is more common.	Your appetite will return to normal when you stop taking medroxyprogesterone.
Sugar control may be affected in diabetics.	·Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.
Your skin may darken in some areas.	This will slowly return to normal once you stop treatment with medroxyprogesterone.
Nausea rarely occurs with medroxyprogesterone. Nausea should go away as treatment continues.	·Divide your daily dose into 2 or more smaller doses. ·Take your dose(s) after eating.
Hair loss rarely occurs with medroxyprogesterone. Your hair will grow back once you stop treatment. Colour and texture may change.	·Use a gentle baby shampoo and soft brush. ·Avoid hair spray, bleaches, dyes and perms.

STOP TAKING MEDROXYPROGESTERONE AND SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of: severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
- Signs of a **blood clot** such as tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain or shortness of breath.

STOP TAKING MEDROXYPROGESTERONE AND SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin.
- Changes in vaginal bleeding.
- Severe mental depression.
- Rapid weight gain greater than 5 pounds

CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- For diabetics: uncontrolled blood sugars.
- Excessive breast swelling or soreness.
- Swelling of hands, feet or lower legs.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR.

See *Chemotherapy and You: a Guide to Self-help During Treatment* available free from the Canadian Cancer Society for more information on managing side effects.

Notes: