



## For the Patient: Bromocriptine

Other names: APO-BROMOCRIPTINE®,  
PMS-BROMOCRIPTINE®

### BC Cancer Agency

- Bromocriptine (broe moe krip' teen) is used to treat cancers that cause the body to produce too much of a hormone called prolactin. Bromocriptine helps decrease the size of the cancer and the production of prolactin. It is a tablet or capsule that you take by mouth.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to cabergoline or other ergot derivatives, such as pergoline (PERMAX®) and methysergide (SANSERT®), before taking bromocriptine.
- **Blood tests** and **blood pressure measurement** may be taken while you are taking bromocriptine. The dose of bromocriptine may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** bromocriptine exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. Take bromocriptine **with food**.
- If you **miss a dose** of bromocriptine, take it as soon as you can if it is within 6 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 6 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.
- Other drugs such as azithromycin (ZITHROMAX®), clarithromycin (BIAXIN®), erythromycin, domperidone, metoclopramide, and some drugs used to treat mental or mood problems may **interact** with bromocriptine. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as you may need extra blood tests or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of bromocriptine. **If you feel dizzy or drowsy, do not drink alcohol** as alcohol may increase these side effects.
- For women: Bromocriptine may restore fertility. It is best to use **a method of birth control** while being treated with bromocriptine.
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.

- **Store** bromocriptine tablets out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, or other health professionals that you are being treated with bromocriptine before you receive any treatment from them.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
You may feel <b>dizzy</b> when you first start taking bromocriptine or when the dose is increased. This should improve as your body adjusts to bromocriptine.	If you feel dizzy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get up slowly from a sitting or lying position. This may prevent you from feeling dizzy.</li> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery.</li> <li>• Avoid alcohol. It may cause more dizziness or drowsiness.</li> </ul>
<b>Vomiting</b> does not usually occur with bromocriptine. <b>Nausea</b> may sometimes occur <b>when you first start</b> taking bromocriptine or when the dose is increased. This should improve as your body adjusts to bromocriptine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take bromocriptine with food.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Help Control Nausea</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., <b>TYLENOL®</b> ) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
<b>Tiredness</b> , lack of energy, and drowsiness may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Your Bank of Energy Savings: How People with Cancer Can Handle Fatigue</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with bromocriptine.	

**\*Please ask your chemotherapy nurse or pharmacist for a copy.**

