



BC Cancer Agency
CARE + RESEARCH
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient:
Other names:

Medroxyprogesterone tablets
PROVERA®

- **Medroxyprogesterone** (me drox' ee proe jes' te rone) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a tablet that you take by mouth. To treat cancer, it decreases estrogen levels in your body.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to medroxyprogesterone or progesterone before taking medroxyprogesterone.
- It is important to **take** medroxyprogesterone exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- You may **take** medroxyprogesterone with food or on an empty stomach.
- 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 more than 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.
- Other drugs may **interact** with medroxyprogesterone. 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 medroxyprogesterone.
- Medroxyprogesterone may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with medroxyprogesterone. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.
- **Store** medroxyprogesterone tablets out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with medroxyprogesterone 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
Nausea does not usually occur with medroxyprogesterone.	

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Weight gain may occur. This may be a result of an increase in appetite .	To maintain your weight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep active • <u>Modify your diet as necessary</u>
Menstrual periods may be irregular or absent.	Tell the doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • excessive bleeding from the vagina
Hair loss is rare with medroxyprogesterone. If you lose hair, it will grow back once you stop treatment with medroxyprogesterone. Colour and texture may change.	If hair loss is a problem, refer to <i>For the Patient: Hair Loss Due to Chemotherapy</i> .*

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

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 swelling and tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after taking medroxyprogesterone including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **fluid problems** such as swelling of face, arms or legs.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.

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

- Vaginal discharge.
- Feelings of depression or nervousness.
- Breast soreness and/or leakage from the nipple.
- Acne, skin rash or itching.
- Excessive hair growth.
- Tiredness and lack of energy.
- Difficulty sleeping.
- Abdominal pain, discomfort or nausea.
- For diabetics: uncontrolled blood sugars.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR