

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Megestrol Tablet



What Is Megestrol?

- Megestrol is used to treat breast cancer and endometrial cancer.

How Is Megestrol Administered / Taken?

- Megestrol is usually taken once daily or in divided doses with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Do not double the dosage.

Can Megestrol Be Administered / Taken with Other Medications?

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including Traditional Chinese Medicines, Jamu medicines or supplements.

What Are the Important Side Effects of Megestrol?

- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Hot flushes (sudden sweating and feeling of warmth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are experiencing hot flushes, wearing light clothing and staying in a cool environment may reduce these symptoms.• Inform your doctor if these symptoms affect you significantly.
Fluid retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You may experience swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs if your body retains extra fluids. Try to elevate your legs when sitting and avoid tight clothing.
Weight gain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Megestrol may increase your appetite and hence causing weight gain. Keep a healthy and balanced diet.

Side Effect	Management
High blood sugar levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your doctor may monitor your blood sugar more frequently, and prescribe medications if required to control your blood sugar.
Signs of a blood clot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf swelling and tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.
Signs of a stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in an arm or leg.
Changes in the way the liver works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience any yellowing of eye white and skin or tea-coloured urine, pale stools or severe abdominal pain.
Rarely vaginal bleeding may occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform your doctor immediately if bleeding is persistent and heavy.

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are There Any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- You must not become pregnant during treatment with Megestrol and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to six months after stopping treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- You should not breast-feed during treatment.

What Else Can I Do to Help My Condition?

- Exercise**
Light exercise is recommended as it helps to improve mobility, balance and even emotional well-being. Avoid strenuous exercise, and rest when you are feeling tired.
- Stay positive**
Understand your condition and take an active role in managing it. Do not be afraid to talk about it with your doctor/ pharmacist/ family members. Repressed feelings can be harmful to your immediate well-being and long-term health.
- Adequate hydration**
Maintain adequate hydration with 2 to 3 litres (8 to 12 cups) of fluids per day unless informed by your doctor to restrict fluids. This will decrease your chances of being constipated and also prevent dehydration.
- Medical and dental treatment**
Always inform your dentist / doctor that you are taking Megestrol.

How Do I Store Megestrol?

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

You can also find useful information with regards to your medication on this website:

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support>

