



Femara

What is Femara?

Femara (generic name letrozole) is a medicine used to induce ovulation in women who are anovulatory or to increase the number of eggs at ovulation in ovulatory women. It is helpful in many women who have menstrual irregularities, which is commonly caused by a failure to ovulate.

Femara works by decreasing the estrogen blood level thereby making the brain “think” that the ovaries are not producing estrogen. Therefore, the brain releases more follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH). FSH causes the ovaries to mature one (or sometimes several) follicle which will then be ovulated. Approximately thirty percent of women who do not ovulate on Clomid, will ovulate after taking Femara.

Your dose of Femara will be _____ tablets daily which is _____ mg. You should take your pills at the same time each day for five consecutive days starting on cycle day 3, 4 or 5.

Side Effects

While many women do not have any side effects while taking Femara, some do. The most common side effects include bone pain, hot flashes, stomach upset, joint pain, fatigue, dizziness, cough, headache and insomnia. These side effects are uncommon when taking this medication for five days only. If you develop any of these side effects, notify your doctor.

Femara increases the chance of pregnancy and is associated with a 5-8% chance of twins. Twins are more commonly seen in women who produce several mature follicles while taking Femara. The incidence of triplets or higher order multiples is rare (<1%).

The incidence of birth defects, stillbirths and miscarriage is not increased by taking Femara to conceive. The overwhelming weight of evidence does not support any increased risk of ovarian or breast cancer, premature menopause or pregnancy complications by taking Femara to conceive.