

Raloxifene (ra-LOKS-ih-feen)

Also Known As: Evista®

Raloxifene is given to postmenopausal women to protect them from bone loss (osteoporosis). It may decrease the risk of breast cancer in women who have a high risk for developing breast cancer.

How It Is Given:

Orally (by mouth)

Side Effects:

- Hot flashes
- Leg cramps (usually mild)
- Blood clots in the veins or lungs (rare)

Special Points:

- Tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking any other medicines or have changed medicines. Some may change the way this drug works. Include:
 - Medicines that do and do not require a prescription.
 - Herbal remedies.
 - Vitamins.
 - Dietary supplements.
- Take raloxifene at approximately the same time each day. You can take it with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, start taking the medicine on your regular schedule as soon as possible. You do not have to make up for the missed dose.
- Check with your doctor if you expect to be inactive or confined to bed. An example is if you will have surgery. You may have to stop taking raloxifene at least four days before you expect to be immobile.
- When traveling or sitting for long periods, get up and move around often.
- Continue other measures your doctor suggests to prevent osteoporosis.
- Keep taking this medicine for as long as your doctor prescribes it. It can prevent osteoporosis only if you take it as prescribed.

Tell Your Doctor or Nurse If You:

- Have or have had blood clots.
- Have liver disease or congestive heart failure.
- Are taking medicine for cholesterol or thyroid function. These medicines should be taken two hours before or after taking raloxifene.
- Are on cholestyramine (Cholybar® or Questran®). This medicine lowers blood cholesterol levels. It will decrease the effect of raloxifene.

- Are taking Levothyroxine for low thyroid hormone levels. Raloxifene may decrease the effects of Levothyroxine.
- Are taking any type of estrogen (e.g., pills, patch, or shot).

When To Call Your Doctor Or Nurse:

Call your doctor or nurse immediately if you have:

- Pain in your calves or swelling of your legs.
- Sudden chest pain, shortness of breath, or coughing up blood.
- Changes in vision.
- Unexplained vaginal bleeding.
- Severe headache.
- Slurred speech, arm or leg weakness.

Call your doctor or nurse during business hours if you have:

- Any unexpected, unexplained problems.
- Any questions or concerns.

The information on this card does not cover all possible side effects that may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor or nurse.

