



## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Enzalutamide

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

### **Brand Names: US**

Xtandi

### **Brand Names: Canada**

Xtandi

### **What is this drug used for?**

- It is used to treat prostate cancer. If you have been given this drug for some other reason, talk with your doctor for more information.

### **What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?**

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you are taking any of these drugs: Gemfibrozil or

rifampin.

- If you are able to get pregnant or breast-feed. This drug is not approved for use in these patients. This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby or loss of an unborn baby. If you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding, talk with your doctor.

**This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.**

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

**What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- This drug may affect certain lab tests that measure digoxin levels in the blood. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take this drug.

- Some people have had seizures while taking this drug. The chance of seizures may be raised if you have certain brain blood vessel problems, take other drugs that may raise the chance of seizures, or if you have ever had seizures, brain injury, stroke, or brain cancer. Avoid tasks or actions where passing out may cause harm to you or others. Talk with your doctor.
- Heart disease has happened with this drug. Rarely, this has been deadly. Tell your doctor if you have high blood pressure, high blood sugar (diabetes), or high cholesterol or triglycerides. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Use care if you have risks for heart disease (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, overweight, high blood sugar or diabetes, smoking or other nicotine use, male older than 40 years of age, other family members with early heart disease, female after menopause). Talk with your doctor.
- If you have high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your blood sugar closely.
- The chance of falling is raised with this drug. Falls may lead to very bad problems like head injury and broken bones. The chance of falling is higher in older people. Talk with the doctor.

- High blood pressure has happened with this drug. Have your blood pressure checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- This drug may affect being able to father a child. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. If your sex partner may get pregnant, use birth control during treatment and for 3 months after your last dose.
- If your sex partner gets pregnant while you take this drug or within 3 months after your last dose, call your doctor right away.
- If you are having sex and your partner is pregnant, use a condom while taking this drug and for 3 months after your last dose.

**What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?**

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble

breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Signs of electrolyte problems like mood changes; confusion; muscle pain, cramps, or spasms; weakness; shakiness; change in balance; an abnormal heartbeat; seizures; loss of appetite; or severe upset stomach or throwing up.
- Signs of high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, unusual thirst or hunger, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit.
- Chest pain or pressure.
- Shortness of breath.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Blood in the urine.
- Seizures.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Bone pain after a fall.
- Memory problems or loss.
- Not able to focus.

- Low white blood cell counts have happened with this drug. This may lead to a higher chance of getting an infection. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of infection like fever, chills, or sore throat.
- A very bad and sometimes deadly brain problem called posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) has happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have signs like feeling confused, lowered alertness, change in eyesight, loss of eyesight, seizures, or very bad headache.

### **What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Feeling dizzy, tired, or weak.
- Back, muscle, or joint pain.
- Muscle weakness.
- Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, or decreased appetite.
- Hot flashes.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Weight loss.

- Headache.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Anxiety.
- Change in taste.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1- 800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at  
<https://www.fda.gov/medwatch>.

### **How is this drug best taken?**

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

### **All products:**

- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- Take with or without food.
- Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, crush, or dissolve.
- Be sure to take this drug with plenty of water. If you do not take with enough liquid, you may not be able to

swallow this drug. This may cause choking, which can be life-threatening or deadly. If you cannot swallow this drug or if you are not sure, talk with your doctor.

- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
- People who are pregnant or may get pregnant must not handle this drug.

### **Capsules:**

- Do not open the capsules.

### **What do I do if I miss a dose?**

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If you do not think about the missed dose until the next day, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

### **How do I store and/or throw out this drug?**

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep lid tightly closed.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.

- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

## General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

## Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at

<https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms>.

## Last Reviewed Date

2026-01-13

## Copyright

© 2026 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors.  
All rights reserved.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

Enzalutamide - Last updated on December 12, 2022

All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center