



## **AROMASIN (exemestane)**

## **FACT SHEET**

AROMASIN is a hormonal agent used in the treatment of breast cancer.

Aromasin has been available in Canada since August, 2000.

### **Indications**

AROMASIN is indicated for hormonal treatment of advanced breast cancer in women with natural or artificially-induced post-menopausal status whose disease has progressed following antiestrogen therapy.

### **Mode of Action**

AROMASIN is an oral steroidal aromatase inactivator. It works by selectively targeting and irreversibly binding to the aromatase enzyme, which is required to produce estrogen. AROMASIN reduces the amount of estrogen in the body. This is helpful because estrogen may influence the growth of certain types of breast cancer cells.

### **Side Effects**

- The most frequently reported reactions are fatigue, nausea, hot flashes, depression, anxiety, and insomnia.

### **Clinical Data**

- In a Phase III study of post-menopausal women randomized to receive either Aromasin or megestrol acetate, Aromasin reduced the relative risk of tumour progression by 16%, with a median time to tumour progression of 20.3 weeks compared with 16.6 weeks for megestrol acetate. Fifteen per cent of the women treated experienced complete disappearance of all known lesions or a 50 per cent or greater reduction in the size of the tumour compared to 12.4% of patients receiving megestrol acetate, though this difference was not statistically significant.<sup>1</sup>

### **Future of Aromasin**

Clinical trials are currently underway examining the clinical benefits of AROMASIN use at various stages of breast cancer.

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<sup>1</sup> Aromasin\* Product Monograph, Pfizer Canada Inc., 2003