Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

FLUTAMIDE

floo-tah-mide

What does it do?

Flutamide blocks the effects of testosterone (a male sex hormone) in the body. It is used to treat prostate cancer and sometimes other conditions.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have liver problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *flutamide* regularly as directed with a glass of water.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain Short of breath, persistent dry cough	Tell your doctor immediately
Sore or enlarged breasts Hot flushing, sweating, more sensitive to sunlight (sunburn or rash) Less interest in sex, trouble getting or keeping an erection Less body and facial hair Tiredness or weakness Stomach upset	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- You will need regular blood tests while taking *flutamide* to check if it is causing problems with your liver.
- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while being treated with *flutamide*. Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF 30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.