Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

MEGESTROL

meh-jes-trol

What does it do?

Megestrol is a progestogen hormone. It is used to treat breast cancer and endometrial cancer, and sometimes other conditions.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have ever had a blood clot.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *megestrol* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food.

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 (e.g. St John's wort) or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Symptoms of a blood clot including: sudden shortness of breath, swelling or pain in one leg	Tell your doctor immediately
Changes in periods, unexpected vaginal bleeding Mood changes Hot flushing, sweating Headache Weight gain Stomach upset Trouble getting or keeping an erection, less interest in sex	Tell your doctor if troublesome

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

Other information:

- Long-term use of *megestrol* may cause side effects such as: round face, change in body shape, change in hair growth, thin skin, weak bones, increased blood pressure and diabetes.
- *Megestrol* is not registered for use in New Zealand. Discuss with your doctor.