

LETROZOLE (BRAND NAME FEMARA®)



Description: When Letrozole is used to treat infertility, it works by helping your pituitary gland improve the stimulation of developing follicles in the ovaries. The medication is supplied as 2.5 mg tablets only.

How it works: Letrozole works by temporarily decreasing the production of estrogen in the body which then stimulates the pituitary gland to release higher amounts of follicle stimulating hormone (FSH). This sends the brain a false message implying that there is an estrogen deficiency in the blood stream. In response, the pituitary gland releases more FSH and luteinizing hormone (LH), which stimulates the growth of an egg follicle. FSH is the main hormone that stimulates the follicles (the fluid filled cysts which contain the eggs) to develop in the ovaries. The increased levels of FSH in turn have a beneficial effect on the ovary to allow a follicle, or sometimes more than one follicle, to develop.

Potential side effects: Side effects might include hot flashes, fatigue, night sweats, arthralgias, nausea, weight changes, headaches and mood changes. Multiple births occur in 5-10% of pregnancies. Excessive enlargement of the ovaries, called ovarian hyper-stimulation (OHSS) may also occur. Symptoms of OHSS include excessive fluid retention and severe abdominal discomfort.

Storage: Store at room temperature.

Instructions: Take orally as directed by your physician.