

## Common Chemotherapeutic Drugs Used in the Treatment of Breast Cancer

<u>Generic (Brand)</u> <u>Manufacturer</u> (Manufacturer's website addresses are provided when known)	<u>Indications</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Precautions</u>	<u>Adverse Reactions</u> *Not all patients will experience adverse reactions described. These are only the most commonly reported reactions.
Anastrozole (Arimidex) AstraZeneca <a href="http://www.arimidex-us.com/">http://www.arimidex-us.com/</a>	Advanced breast cancer in post-menopausal women	Hormone antagonist	Fetal harm to pregnant women	Nausea, vomiting, peripheral neuropathy, anemia, myelosuppression
Capecitabine (Xeloda) Roche <a href="http://www.xeloda.com/">http://www.xeloda.com/</a>	Metastatic breast cancer resistant to paclitaxel and anthracyclines or if anthracyclines not indicated	Antimetabolites	Altered coagulation parameters and/or bleeding with coumarin. Monitor phenytoin levels and dose adjustments may be required. Contraindicated with severe renal impairment.	Diarrhea, vomiting, stomatitis, and other GI disorders, hand and foot syndrome, dermatitis, anemia neutropenia, fever, fatigue, elevated bilirubin levels
Conjugated Estrogens (Premarin) Wyeth-Ayerst <a href="http://www.premarin.com/">http://www.premarin.com/</a>	Palliative treatment of breast cancer and prostate cancer	Sex hormone	Increased risk of endometrial cancer; gallbladder disease and thromboembolic disorders, elevated blood pressure	Nausea, vomiting, cramps, breakthrough bleeding, spotting, changes in menstrual flow, breast tenderness and enlargement
Cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan) Bristol-Myers Squibb <a href="http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo">http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo</a>	Carcinoma of breast, lymphomas, leukemias, multiple myeloma and others	Ankylosing agent	Pregnancy cat D, Hemorrhagic cystitis may develop, carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility, cardiac toxicity	Nausea, vomiting, alopecia, leukopenia
Docetaxel (Taxotere) Aventis <a href="http://www.taxotere.com/">http://www.taxotere.com/</a>	Treatment of locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer	Mitotic inhibitor	Pregnancy category D, toxicity deaths reported, severe fluid retention, hypersensitivity reaction, myelotoxicity	Rash, neutropenia, leukopenia, anemia, fluid retention, infection, alopecia, nausea, vomiting, stomatitis

Doxorubicin HCl (Adriamycin PFS and RDF) Pharmacia(Rubex) Bristol-Myers Squibb <a href="http://www.mayoclinic.com/find/information/druginformation">http://www.mayoclinic.com/find/information/druginformation</a>	Breast carcinoma and many others	Anthracycline antibiotics	Pregnancy cat D, irreversible myocardial toxicity, bone marrow suppression, may impart red color to urine for 1-2 days after administration	Nausea, vomiting, congestive heart failure, alopecia, mucositis, fever, chills, urticaria
Epirubicin HCl (Ellence) Pharmacia	Adjuvant therapy in patients with evidence of axillary node tumor following breast resection	Antitumor antibiotic	Pregnancy cat D, Extravasation will cause severe tissue necrosis, Myocardial toxicity, secondary AML, reduce dose in hepatic impairment, myelosuppression	Lethargy, fever, amenorrhea, hot flashes, nausea, vomiting, mucositis, diarrhea, anorexia, alopecia, rash, skin changes, leukopenia, neutropenia, anemia, thrombo-cytopenia
Estrified Estrogen Tablets (Estratab) Solvay <a href="http://www.solvaypharmaceuticals-us.com/">http://www.solvaypharmaceuticals-us.com/</a>	Palliative treatment of metastatic breast cancer and advanced prostate cancer	Sex hormone	Pregnancy cat X, Increased risk of endometrial cancer, Increased risk of gall bladder disease, increased cardiovascular disease	Nausea, vomiting, cramps, breakthrough bleeding, spotting, changes in menstrual flow, breast tenderness and enlargement
Ethinyl Estradiol (Estinyl) Schering	Palliative treatment of breast cancer and advanced prostate cancer	Sex hormone	Pregnancy cat X, Increased risk of endometrial cancer, use with caution in liver dysfunction	Nausea, vomiting, cramps, breakthrough bleeding, spotting, changes in menstrual flow, breast tender-ness and enlargement
Exemestane (Aromasin) Pharmacia <a href="http://www.patienteducation.com/exemestane">http://www.patienteducation.com/exemestane</a>	Treatment of advanced breast cancer in post-menopausal women whose disease has progressed beyond tamoxifen therapy	Hormone antagonist	Pregnancy cat D	Fatigue, hot flashes, pain, depression, insomnia, anxiety, hypertension, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, anorexia, dyspnea, cough

<p>Fluorouracil (Adrucil) Pharmacia <a href="http://www.nursesprdr.com/members/database">http://www.nursesprdr.com/members/database</a></p>	<p>Palliative management of colon, rectum, breast, stomach and pancreas carcinoma</p>	<p>Antimetabolites</p>	<p>Pregnancy cat D, extreme caution in patients with hepatic/renal impairment, history of high-dose pelvic irradiation or previous use of alkylating agents, avoid extravasation</p>	<p>Stomatitis, esophagopharyngitis, diarrhea, GI ulceration &amp; bleeding, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, leukopenia, alopecia, dermatitis</p>
<p>Goserelin Acetate (Zoladex) AstraZeneca <a href="http://www.astrazeneca-us.com/">http://www.astrazeneca-us.com/</a></p>	<p>Treatment of B2-C prostatic carcinoma and palliative therapy of advanced breast cancer and prostatic carcinoma</p>	<p>Hormone</p>	<p>Pregnancy cat X, Antibody formation has been reported</p>	<p>Sexual dysfunction, hot flashes, headache, sweating, acne, pain</p>
<p>Letrozole (Femara) Novartis <a href="http://www.femara.com/">http://www.femara.com/</a></p>	<p>Treatment of postmenopausal women with advanced or metastatic breast cancer</p>	<p>Hormone</p>	<p>Pregnancy cat D, Fetal harm to pregnant women</p>	<p>Fatigue, chest pain, decreased weight, head-ache, insomnia, hot flashes, lower limb edema, nausea, constipation, diarrhea, vomiting, dyspnea, cough, alopecia</p>
<p>Megestrol Acetate (Megace) Bristol-Myers Squibb <a href="http://www.breastdiseases.com/megace">http://www.breastdiseases.com/megace</a></p>	<p>Palliative treatment of advanced carcinoma of the breast and endometrium</p>	<p>Hormone</p>	<p>Pregnancy cat D, Do not use in first 4 months of pregnancy. Exacerbations of pre-existing diabetes</p>	<p>Thromboembolic phenomena such as thrombophlebitis and pulmonary embolism, weight gain</p>
<p>Paclitaxel (Taxol) Bristol-Myers Squibb <a href="http://www.taxol.com/">http://www.taxol.com/</a></p>	<p>Advanced carcinoma of ovary, breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma</p>	<p>Mitotic inhibitor</p>	<p>Pregnancy cat D, anaphylaxis reactions reported, bone marrow suppression</p>	<p>Neutropenia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, myalgia, peripheral neuropathy</p>

Tamoxifen Citrate (Nolvadex) AstraZeneca <a href="http://www.tamoxifencitrate.com/">http://www.tamoxifencitrate.com/</a>	Treatment of metastatic breast cancer and reduction of breast cancer in high risk women	Hormone antagonist	Pregnancy cat D, Hypercalcemia, Increased risk of endometrial cancer and thromboembolic events, corneal changes	Hot flashes, fluid retention, vaginal discharge, irregular menses, nausea, weight loss, skin changes
Testolactone (Teslac) Bristol-Myers Squibb <a href="http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo">http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo</a>	Adjunct therapy in the palliative treatment of advanced or disseminated breast cancer	Hormone antagonist	Pregnancy cat C	Malaise, aches, edema of extremities, anorexia, increase in blood pressure, macropapular erythema, alopecia, nausea, vomiting
Thiotepa (Thioplex) Immunex <a href="http://www.nursesprdr.com/members/database">http://www.nursesprdr.com/members/database</a>	Adenocarcinoma of breast/ovary, neoplastic diseases of various serosal cavities	Ankylating agent	Pregnancy cat D, Death by bone marrow depression and septicemias and hemorrhage, Highly toxic to hemopoietic system, Fetal harm	Fatigue, weakness, fever, rash, edema, anaphylaxis, nausea, vomiting, dysuria, urinary retention, alopecia, hematopoietic depression
Toremifene Citrate (Fareston) Shire <a href="http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk/info">http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk/info</a>	Metastatic breast cancer in post-menopausal women	Hormone antagonist	Pregnancy cat D Hypercalcemia and tumor flare reported. Avoid in patients with thromboembolytic diseases. Vaginal bleeding	Hot flashes, sweating, vaginal discharge, nausea
Trastuzumab (Herceptin) Genentech <a href="http://www.rxlist.com/">http://www.rxlist.com/</a>	Treatment of metastatic breast cancer tumors which overexpress HER2 proteins	Monoclonal antibody	Pregnancy cat B, ventricular dysfunction, congestive heart failure	Dyspnea, cough, decreased ejection fraction, CHF, anemia, leukopenia, diarrhea
Vinorelbine Tartrate (Navelbine) GlaxoSmithKline <a href="http://www.gsk.com/products">http://www.gsk.com/products</a>	Advanced non-small cell lung cancer	Mitotic inhibitor	Pregnancy cat D, Granulocytopenia, local tissue necrosis and/or thrombophlebitis with extravasation	Anemia, thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, granulocytopenia, peripheral neuropathy, alopecia, nausea

**This information was compiled from the following sources:**

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