

## About Hormone Therapy

Hormones, like estrogen, can promote the growth of breast cancer if the cancer cells depend on hormones to grow. Hormone therapy treats breast cancer by preventing cancer cells from getting the hormones they need to grow. The most common hormone therapy for early stage breast cancer is the drug tamoxifen. A newer class of drugs called aromatase inhibitors is also available. Other therapies, such as the suppression or removal of the ovaries, are sometimes used as well. *Note: Hormone therapy is not to be confused with hormone replacement therapy.*

Answers to these questions will help you understand hormone treatment.

---

**Q:** Which hormone treatment do you recommend for me and why?

**A:**

---

**Q:** How does hormone therapy treat breast cancer?

**A:**

---

**Q:** What are the short and long-term side effects of this hormone treatment? What are my chances of having side effects?

**A:**

---

**Q:** Is there a generic form of this hormone treatment? Is it as effective as the name-brand?

**A:**

Answers to these questions will help you prepare for the treatment itself.

---

**Q:** How soon after surgery should the hormone therapy be started?  
How long will I be on the therapy?

**A:**

---

**Q:** How do I take the treatment? How often?

**A:**

---

**Q:** Will I take the hormone therapy along with my other treatment?

**A:**

---

**Q:** Will my insurance pay for the hormone treatment? If not, are there financial assistance programs that will help cover the costs?

**A:**

---

**Q:** Will I need more tests or exams? If so, which tests and how often will they be needed?

**A:**

---

**Q:** What signs and symptoms should I tell you about?

**A:**

---

**Q:** What are the risks if I stop taking the hormone therapy?

**A:**

---



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen for the Cure does not provide medical advice.

[www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org) 1-877 GO KOMEN