

**For the use only of a Registered Medical Practitioner or a Hospital or a Laboratory.**

**‘Nolvadex’ Tablets™**  
**‘Nolvadex’-D Tablets™**

## **COMPOSITION**

‘Nolvadex’ Tablet contains tamoxifen citrate equivalent to 10mg of tamoxifen.  
‘Nolvadex’-D Tablet contains tamoxifen citrate equivalent to 20mg of tamoxifen.

## **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

‘Nolvadex’ (tamoxifen) is a non-steroidal anti-oestrogen, which in breast cancer cells acts by preventing oestrogen binding to the oestrogen receptor. In women with oestrogen receptor-positive/unknown breast tumours, adjuvant tamoxifen has been shown to reduce significantly recurrence of disease and improve 10-year survival, achieving a significantly greater effect with 5 years’ treatment than with 1 or 2 years’ treatment.

After oral administration, ‘Nolvadex’ is absorbed rapidly with maximum serum concentrations attained within 4-7 hours. The drug is highly protein bound (>99%) and is metabolized by hydroxylation, demethylation and conjugation. Excretion occurs primarily via the faeces, with an elimination half-life of approximately 7 days.

## **THERAPEUTIC INDICATION**

‘Nolvadex’ is indicated for the treatment of breast cancer in both pre- and post-menopausal women.

## **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Adults (including elderly): The dosage range is 20 to 40mg daily, given either in divided doses twice daily or as a single dose once daily.

**Children: Not applicable.**

## **CONTRA-INDICATIONS**

Pregnancy: ‘Nolvadex’ must not be administered during pregnancy.

Lactation: It is not known if ‘Nolvadex’ is excreted in human milk and is not recommended during lactation.

‘Nolvadex’ should not be given to patients who had prior hypersensitivity to the product or any of its ingredients.

## **SPECIAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

Menstruation is suppressed in a proportion of premenopausal women receiving ‘Nolvadex’. Any women receiving or having previously received ‘Nolvadex’, who report abnormal gynaecological symptoms, especially vaginal bleeding, should be promptly investigated.

## **INTERACTIONS**

When ‘Nolvadex’ is used in combination with coumarin-type anticoagulants, a significant increase in anticoagulant effect may occur. Where such co-administration is initiated, careful monitoring is recommended.

When ‘Nolvadex’ is used along with cytotoxic agents, there is increased risk of thromboembolic events. As ‘Nolvadex’ is metabolized by cytochrome P450 3A4, care is required when co-administering with drugs such as rifampicin, known to induce this enzyme. The relevance of this to clinical practice is not known.

## **UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS**

Side effects include hot flushes, vaginal bleeding, vaginal discharge, pruritus vulvae and tumour flare or general side effects, e.g. gastrointestinal intolerance, headache, lightheadedness and occasionally, fluid retention and alopecia. However, these side-effects can be controlled by reduction of dosage (within the recommended dose range) without loss of control of the disease. An increased incidence of endometrial cancer, and uterine sarcoma (mostly malignant mixed Mullerian tumours) has been associated with ‘Nolvadex’ treatment. Uterine fibroids, endometriosis and other endometrial changes including hyperplasia and polyps have been reported.

Other less common to rare side effects while receiving 'Nolvadex' include initial hypercalcaemia, visual disturbances (infrequent reports of corneal changes and retinopathy), anaemia, leucopenia, and/or thrombocytopenia, skin rashes and rarely hypersensitivity reactions. Increased incidence of thromboembolic events including deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, during 'Nolvadex' therapy, have been reported. Very rarely, cases of interstitial pneumonitis have been reported. 'Nolvadex' has been associated with changes in liver enzyme levels and on rarely with more severe liver abnormalities, including fatty liver, cholestasis and hepatitis.

#### **OVERDOSAGE**

On theoretical grounds, overdosage would be expected to cause enhancement of above pharmacological side effects. Observations in animals show that extreme overdosage (100-200 times recommended daily dose) may produce oestrogenic effects. There is no specific antidote to overdosage and treatment must be symptomatic.

#### **PHARMACEUTICAL PRECAUTIONS**

Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 30°C. Store in the original container.