



EVISTA (Raloxifene)

Raloxifene is a selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM). It is similar to tamoxifen. It works like estrogen hormone on bone, while it has the opposite effects on the breast tissue. However, unlike estrogen or tamoxifen, it does not affect the uterus. Raloxifene is a useful medication for prevention and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis.

What do Raloxifene tablets do?

RALOXIFENE (Evista®) reduces the amount of calcium lost from bones. It helps to prevent bone loss and to increase normal healthy bone formation in patients with osteoporosis. Raloxifene does not reduce hot flashes associated with estrogen deficiency. Generic Raloxifene tablets are not yet available.

What should I tell my doctor if I take Raloxifene?

We need to know if you have any of these conditions:

- cancer
- a history of blood clots
- low level of blood calcium
- heart failure
- high level of blood triglycerides
- liver disease
- vitamin D deficiency
- an unusual or allergic reaction to Raloxifene, other medicines, foods, dyes, or preservatives
- pregnant or trying to get pregnant
- breast-feeding

How should I take this medicine?

Raloxifene tablets 60mg are taken by mouth. They can be taken with or without food. Follow the directions on the prescription label.

What if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only that dose. Do not take double or extra doses.

What other medicines can interact with Raloxifene?

- no known drug interactions

What side effects might I notice from taking Raloxifene?

Side effects that you should report as soon as possible:

- difficulty breathing
- leg pain or swelling
- skin rash, itching

Side effects that usually do not require immediate medical attention (report if they continue or are bothersome):

- difficulty sleeping
- fluid build-up
- hot flashes
- leg cramps
- muscle aches
- sinus pressure or drainage
- stomach or intestinal gas
- stomach pain
- sweating
- weight gain

What do I need to watch for while I take Raloxifene?

You should make sure you get enough calcium (1000mg) and vitamin D (400 units) in your diet while you are taking Raloxifene. Weight bearing exercise will help to prevent bone loss.

Raloxifene can rarely cause blood clots. You should avoid long periods of bed rest while taking Raloxifene. If you are going to have surgery or going to be inactive for a period of time (for example a long car or plane ride), stop Raloxifene 3 days before. After surgery, it should be restarted only after you are walking again. It should not be restarted while you still need long periods of bed rest.

You should not smoke while taking Raloxifene. Smoking may also increase your risk of blood clots. Smoking can also decrease the effects of Raloxifene on bone.