

# **ESTRADIOL**

## **WHAT IS ESTRADIOL?**

Estradiol (a form of estrogen) is a female sex hormone necessary for many processes in the body.

## **WHAT DOES ESTRADIOL DO?**

Estradiol is mainly used to treat certain symptoms of menopause such as hot flashes and dryness, burning and irritation of the vaginal area, deficiency in ovary function, Turner's syndrome, some types of breast cancer in men and in postmenopausal women, degeneration of the vagina and urethra and for treatment in prostate cancer. In addition, estradiol is used to prevent osteoporosis.

## **WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE ESTRADIOL?**

Do not take estradiol without first talking to the doctor if there is a circulation, bleeding or blood-clotting disorder; undiagnosed, abnormal vaginal bleeding; or any type of breast, uterine or hormone-dependent cancer.

## **WHAT SHOULD THE PHYSICIAN KNOW BEFORE TAKING ESTRADIOL?**

The physician should be made aware of any of the following conditions: high blood pressure, heart disease, high cholesterol/triglyceride levels, liver or kidney disease, asthma, epilepsy, migraines, diabetes, gallbladder disease or a hysterectomy (uterus removed).

## **WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF ESTRADIOL?**

Estradiol may increase the risk of developing a condition (endometrial hyperplasia) that may lead to cancer of the lining of the uterus. Taking progestins (another hormone med) while using estradiol lowers the risk of this possibility. Treatment with estrogens long-term may increase the risk of stroke.

## **HOW IS ESTRADIOL FORMULATED?**

Estradiol is prepared in a vaginal cream or suppository that is absorbed directly through the skin of the vaginal wall. It is also prepared in a topical cream that is applied to a soft-tissue area, such as the inner arm, abdomen or inner thigh.