bicalutamide (bye-ka-loot-a-mide)

Classifications
Therapeutic: antineoplastics
Pharmacologic: antiandrogens

Pregnancy Category X

Indications
Treatment of metastatic prostate carcinoma in conjunction with luteinizing hormone–releasing hormone (LHRH) analogs (goserelin, leuprolide).

Action
Antagonizes the effects of androgen at the cellular level. Therapeutic Effects: Decreased spread of prostate carcinoma.

Pharmacokinetics
Absorption: Well absorbed after oral administration.
Distribution: Unknown.
Protein Binding: 96%.
Metabolism and Excretion: Mostly metabolized by the liver.
Half-life: 5.8 days.

TIME/ACTION PROFILE (blood levels)
ROUTE ONSET PEAK DURATION
PO unknown 31.3 hr unknown

Contraindications/Precautions
Contraindicated in: Hypersensitivity; Women.
Use Cautiously in: Moderate to severe liver impairment; Pedi: Safety not established.

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects

Interactions
Drug-Drug: May increase the effect of warfarin.

Route/Dosage
PO (Adults): 50 mg once daily (must be given concurrently with LHRH analog or following surgical castration).

NURSING IMPLICATIONS
Assessment
● Assess patient for adverse GI effects. Diarrhea is the most common cause of discontinuation of therapy.

● Lab Test Considerations: Monitor serum prostate-specific antigen (PSA) periodically to determine response to therapy. If levels rise, assess patient for disease progression. May require periodic LHRH analog administration without bicalutamide.

● Monitor serum transaminases before, regularly during the first 4 mos of therapy, and periodically during therapy. May cause "2 times normal, bicalutamide should be discontinued if transaminase levels usually return to normal after discontinuation.

● May cause hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia in patients receiving LHRH agonists concurrently; monitor blood glucose in patients receiving bicalutamide in combination with LHRH agonists.

Potential Nursing Diagnoses
Diarrhea (Adverse Reactions)

Implementation
● Start treatment with bicalutamide at the same time as an LHRH analog.

● PO: May be administered in the morning or evening, without regard to food.

Patient/Family Teaching
● Instruct patient to take bicalutamide along with the LHRH analog as directed at the same time each day. If a dose is missed, omit and take the next dose at regular intervals. Do not discontinue.

● Instruct patient to notify health care professional of all Rx or OTC medications, vitamins, or herbal products being taken prior to starting bicalutamide.

● Advise patient to notify health care professional if GI disturbances continue or occur beyond 2 mos.

● Instruct patient to wear warning card indicating use of LHRH analog and prostate carcinoma.

● Instruct patient regarding importance of follow-up exams to monitor disease progression.

● Inform patient that successful treatment depends on continued follow-up care.

● Emphasize the importance of regular PSA monitoring.

● Caution patient to report any new or worsening symptoms of prostate carcinoma.

● May cause dizziness; advise patient to avoid driving and other activities that require alertness until response to medication is known.

● Instruct patient to notify health care professional if symptoms of liver toxicity occur: nausea, vomiting, fatigue, abdominal pain.

● Instruct patient to notify health care professional of medication regimen prior to treatment or surgery.

● Advise patient to notify health care professional of all Rx or OTC medications, vitamins, or herbal products being taken, as these may interact with bicalutamide.

● Counsel patient to use contraception while taking bicalutamide due to risk of sexual dysfunction.

● Advise patient to carry identification indicating treatment with LHRH analogs or prostate carcinoma.

● Advise patient to wear head cover if alopecia occurs.

● May cause diarrhea; stress the importance of adequately hydrated diet and extra fluid intake.

● May cause increased thirst; advise patient to drink plenty of fluids and to notify health care professional of any unusual or persistent symptoms.

● Caution patient to avoid handling of hazardous materials if possible.

● Advise patient to notify health care professional if skin rash, lightheadedness, or unusual vision occurs.

● May cause dizziness; advise patient to avoid driving and other activities that require alertness until response to medication is known.

● Instruct patient to avoid alcohol.

● Advise patient to notify health care professional of medication regimen prior to treatment or surgery.
time; do not double doses. Do not discontinue without consulting health care professional.

● Advise patient to stop taking bicalutamide and notify health care professional immediately of symptoms of liver dysfunction (nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, anorexia, "flu-like" symptoms, dark urine, jaundice, or right upper quadrant tenderness).

● Advise patient to notify health care professional of all Rx or OTC medications, vitamins, or herbal products being taken and to consult health care professional before taking any new medications.

● Instruct patient to report severe or persistent diarrhea.

● Discuss with patient the possibility of hair loss. Explore methods of coping.

● Emphasize the importance of regular follow-up exams and blood tests to determine progress, monitor for side effects.

Evaluation/Desired Outcomes

● Decreased spread of prostate carcinoma.

Why was this drug prescribed for your patient?