Toremifene Citrate (Fareston®)

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Drug name: Toremifene citrate is manufactured under the brand name Fareston® (Shire Roberts Inc., Florence, KY).

Classification: Hormone oncologic. Toremifene citrate is a nonsteroidal antiestrogen, a selective estrogen-receptor modulator. The drug is classified most commonly as an antiestrogen or antineoplastic.

Action: Toremifene citrate binds to estrogen receptors, producing estrogenic and/or antiestrogenic effects. It blocks growth of hormone receptor positive or unknown status.

In comparative trials, toremifene citrate had similar efficacy to tamoxifen for treating locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer in postmenopausal women with hormone receptor positive or unknown status.

Indication: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved toremifene citrate for treating locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer in postmenopausal women with hormone receptor positive or unknown status.

Effect on blood counts: Approximately five days.

Half-life: There is no limit as to how long the patient can continue to receive the drug. For more information, contact Shire Roberts Inc. Patient Assistance Program, P.O. Box 698, Somerville, NJ 08876 (908-203-0657).

Nursing Implications: Nurses evaluating the use of toremifene citrate should:

• Assess the menopausal status of patients with breast cancer. Therapy with antiestrogens in pregnant women may cause miscarriages, birth defects, and death of the fetus.

• Assess patients for history of thromboembolism and liver or renal insufficiency.

• Review patients’ current prescription and nonprescription medications, including vitamins and herbs.

• Assess patients for side effects (the most severe is thromboembolism).

• Conduct periodic monitoring of CBC, LFTs, and calcium level.

Patient Education: Patients receiving toremifene citrate should be taught the following:

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Key Words: selective estrogen receptor modulator, breast neoplasms

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