



SELECT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION



PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION



PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET



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SCHEDULING STATUS: S3

FEMODENE® ED 0,03 mg/0,075 mg coated tablets

Ethinylestradiol/Gestodene

Contains sugar (lactose and sucrose)

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking FEMODENE ED

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- FEMODENE ED has been prescribed for you personally and you should not share your medicine with other people. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

What is in this leaflet

1. What FEMODENE ED is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take FEMODENE ED
3. How to take FEMODENE ED
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store FEMODENE ED
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What FEMODENE ED is and what it is used for

FEMODENE ED is a combined oral contraceptive pill and is used to prevent pregnancy.

Each of the 21 smaller white coated tablets contains a small amount of the female hormones ethinylestradiol and gestodene.

2. What you need to know before you take FEMODENE ED

General notes

Before you can begin taking FEMODENE ED, your doctor will ask you some questions about your personal health history and that of your close relatives. The doctor will also measure your blood pressure and, depending upon your personal situation, may also carry out some other tests.

In this leaflet, several situations are described where you should stop using FEMODENE ED, or where the reliability of FEMODENE ED may be decreased. In such situations you should either not have sex or you should take extra non-hormonal contraceptive precautions, e.g. use a condom or another barrier method. Do not use rhythm or temperature methods. These methods can be unreliable because FEMODENE ED alters the monthly changes of body temperature and cervical mucus.

FEMODENE ED, like other hormonal contraceptives, does not protect against HIV infection (AIDS) or any other sexually transmitted disease.

Do not take FEMODENE ED

50 Do not use the combined pill if you have any of the conditions listed below. If any of these apply to you,
51 tell your doctor before starting to use FEMODENE ED. Your doctor may advise you to use a different
52 type of pill or an entirely different (including non-hormonal) method of birth control.

- 53 • if you are hypersensitive (**allergic**) to ethinylestradiol, gestodene or any of the other ingredients in
54 FEMODENE ED. This may cause, for example, itching, rash or swelling
- 55 • if you have (or have ever had) a **blood clot** in a blood vessel of the leg (thrombosis), of the lung
56 (pulmonary embolism) or other parts of the body
- 57 • if you have (or have ever had) a **heart attack** or **stroke** (caused by a blood clot or a rupture of a
58 blood vessel in the brain)
- 59 • if you have (or have ever had) a **disease that can be an indicator (i) of a future heart attack** (for
60 example, angina pectoris which causes severe chest pain which may spread to the left arm) **or (ii) of a**
61 **stroke** (for example, a minor stroke with no residual effects, a so-called transient ischaemic attack)
- 62 • if you have a high risk of venous or arterial blood clots (see ‘FEMODENE ED and blood clots’.
63 Consult your doctor who will decide whether you may use FEMODENE ED)
- 64 • if you have (or have ever had) a certain kind of **migraine** (with so-called focal neurological
65 symptoms such as visual symptoms, speech disability, or weakness or numbness in any part of your
66 body)
- 67 • if you have diabetes mellitus with damaged blood vessels.
- 68 • if you have (or have ever had) **liver disease** (symptoms of which may be yellowing of the skin
69 (jaundice) or itching over the whole body) and your liver is still not working normally
- 70 • if you are taking any antiviral medicines which contain ombitasvir, paritaprevir, or dasabuvir, and
71 combinations of these. These antiviral medicines are used to treat chronic (long-term) hepatitis C (an
72 infectious disease that affects the liver, caused by the hepatitis C virus).
- 73 • if you have (or have ever had) a **cancer** that may grow under the influence of sex hormones (e.g. **of**
74 **the breast or the genital organs**)
- 75 • if you have (or have ever had) a benign or malignant **tumour of the liver**
- 76 • if you have any **unexplained bleeding from the vagina**
- 77 • if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant

78
79 If any of these conditions appear for the first time while using FEMODENE ED, stop taking it at once
80 and consult your doctor. In the meantime, use non-hormonal contraceptive measures. See also ‘General
81 notes’.

82 83 **Warnings and precautions**

84
85 In some situations you need to take special care while taking FEMODENE ED, and your doctor may need
86 to examine you regularly. Consult your doctor before starting to use FEMODENE ED if any of the
87 following conditions apply to you or if any of them develop or worsen while you are taking FEMODENE
88 ED:

- 89 • if you smoke
- 90 • if you have diabetes
- 91 • if you are overweight
- 92 • if you have high blood pressure
- 93 • if you have a heart valve disorder or a certain heart rhythm disorder
- 94 • if anyone in your immediate family has ever had a blood clot (thrombosis in the leg, lung
95 ‘pulmonary embolism’, or elsewhere), a heart attack or a stroke at a young age
- 96 • if you suffer from migraine
- 97 • if you have epilepsy (see ‘Other medicines and FEMODENE ED’)

- 98 • if you or someone in your immediate family has ever had high blood levels of cholesterol or
- 99 triglycerides (fatty substances)
- 100 • if a close relative has or has ever had breast cancer
- 101 • if you have a disease of the liver or gall bladder
- 102 • if you have Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis (chronic inflammatory bowel disease)
- 103 • if you have systemic lupus erythematosus (or SLE, a disease of the immune system)
- 104 • if you have haemolytic uraemia syndrome (or 'HUS', a disorder of blood coagulation causing
- 105 failure of the kidneys)
- 106 • if you have sickle cell disease
- 107 • if you have a condition that occurred for the first time or worsened during pregnancy or previous
- 108 use of sex hormones (e.g. hearing loss, a metabolic disease called porphyria, a skin disease called
- 109 herpes gestationis, or a neurological disease called Sydenham's chorea)
- 110 • if you have (or have ever had) golden brown pigment patches so-called 'pregnancy patches'
- 111 especially on the face (chloasma). If this is the case, avoid direct exposure to sunlight or
- 112 ultraviolet light
- 113 • if you have hereditary angioedema. Consult your doctor immediately if you experience symptoms
- 114 of angioedema such as swollen face, tongue or throat, and/or difficulty swallowing, or hives,
- 115 together with difficulty breathing. Products containing estrogens may induce or worsen symptoms
- 116 of angioedema

117
118 If any of the above conditions appear for the first time, recur or worsen while using the Pill, contact your
119 doctor.

120
121 **Femodene ED and depression**

122
123 Some women using hormonal contraceptives including FEMODENE ED have reported depression or
124 depressed mood. Depression can be serious and may sometimes lead to suicidal thoughts. If you
125 experience mood changes and depressive symptoms contact your doctor for further medical advice as
126 soon as possible.

127
128 **FEMODENE ED and blood clots**

129
130 A thrombosis is the formation of a blood clot which may block a blood vessel.

131
132 A thrombosis sometimes occurs in the deep veins of the legs (deep venous thrombosis). Venous
133 thromboembolism (VTE) can develop whether or not you are taking the pill. It can also happen if you
134 become pregnant. If a blood clot breaks away from the vein where it has formed, it may reach and block
135 the arteries of the lungs, causing a so-called 'pulmonary embolism'. Blood clots can also occur in the
136 blood vessels of the heart (causing a heart attack). Blood clots or a ruptured blood vessel in the brain may
137 cause a stroke.

138
139 Long-term studies have suggested that there may be a link between the use of the pill (also called
140 'combined oral contraceptive' or 'combined pill', because it combines two different female hormones, so-
141 called estrogens and progestogens) and an increased risk of venous and arterial blood clots, embolism,
142 heart attack or stroke. The occurrence of these events is rare.

143
144 The risk of venous thromboembolism is highest during the first year of use. This increased risk is present
145 after initially starting the combined pill or restarting (following a 4 week or greater pill free interval) the
146 same or a different combined pill. Data from a large study suggest that this increased risk is mainly
147 present during the first 3 months.

148
149 Overall, the risk for venous thromboembolism in users of low estrogen dose (< 50 µg ethinylestradiol)
150 pills is two to threefold higher than for non-users of combined oral contraceptives who are not pregnant
151 and remains lower than the risk associated with pregnancy and delivery.

152
153 Very occasionally venous or arterial thromboembolic events may cause serious permanent disabilities,
154 may be life-threatening, or may even be fatal.

155
156 Venous thromboembolism, manifesting as deep venous thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism, may
157 occur during the use of all combined pills.

158
159 Extremely rarely blood clots can occur in other parts of the body including the liver, gut, kidney, brain or
160 eye.

161

Stop taking the pill and contact a doctor immediately if you notice signs of :
deep venous thrombosis, such as: swelling of one leg or along a vein in the leg; pain or tenderness in the leg which may be felt only when standing or walking, increased warmth in the affected leg; red or discolored skin on the leg.
pulmonary embolism, such as: sudden onset of unexplained shortness of breath or rapid breathing; sudden coughing which may bring up blood; sharp chest pain which may increase with deep breathing; sense of anxiety; severe lightheadedness or dizziness; rapid or irregular heartbeat. Some of these symptoms (e.g. “shortness of breath”, “coughing”) are non-specific and might be misinterpreted as more common or less severe events (e.g. respiratory tract infection).
arterial thromboembolism (arterial blood vessels blocked by blood clots and such blood clots which have broken away)
stroke such as: sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; sudden, severe or prolonged headache with no known cause; loss of consciousness or fainting with or without seizure.
blood clots blocking other arterial blood vessels, such as: sudden pain, swelling and slight blue discoloration of an extremity; “acute” abdomen.
heart attack such as: pain, discomfort, pressure, heaviness, sensation of squeezing or fullness in the chest, arm, or below the breastbone; discomfort radiating to the back, jaw, throat, arm, stomach; fullness, indigestion or choking feeling; sweating, nausea, vomiting or dizziness; extreme weakness, anxiety, or shortness of breath; rapid or irregular heartbeats.

162
163 Your doctor will check, e.g. whether you have a higher risk of getting a thrombosis due to a combination
164 of risk factors or perhaps one very strong risk factor. In the case of a combination of factors the risk may
165 be higher than simply adding two individual risks. If the risk is too high, your doctor will not prescribe
166 the Pill. (see also ‘Do not take FEMODENE ED’).

167 The risk of venous or arterial blood clots (e.g. deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, heart
168 attack) or stroke increases:

- 169 - with older age
170 - if you are overweight
171 - if anyone in your immediate family has ever had a blood clot (thrombosis in the leg, lung
172 ‘pulmonary embolism’, or elsewhere), a heart attack or a stroke at a young age, or if you or any of
173 your relatives are known or suspected of having a hereditary blood clotting disorder increasing
174 your risk for developing blood clots. In this case you should see a specialist before deciding about
175 using any combined oral contraceptive. Certain blood factors that may suggest you have tendency
176 for venous or arterial thrombosis include activated protein C (APC) resistance,

- 177 hyperhomocysteinaemia, antithrombin-III deficiency, protein C deficiency, protein S deficiency,
178 antiphospholipid antibodies (anticardiolipin antibodies, lupus anticoagulant).
179 - with prolonged immobilisation (for example, when you have your leg or legs in plaster or
180 splints), major surgery, any surgery to the legs, or major trauma. In these situations it is better to
181 stop taking the pill (if the surgery is planned you should stop at least four weeks beforehand) and
182 not to start again until two weeks after you are fully on your feet again
183 - if you smoke (the risk increases the more you smoke and the older you get, especially in women
184 over 35 years of age). When using the pill you should stop smoking, especially if you are older
185 than about 35 years of age.
186 - if you or someone in your immediate family has or has ever had high blood levels of cholesterol
187 or triglycerides (fatty substances)
188 - if you have high blood pressure . If you develop high blood pressure while using the pill, you may
189 be told to stop using it.
190 - if you suffer from migraine
191 - if you have a heart valve disorder or a certain heart rhythm disorder

192

193 Directly after giving birth, women are at an increased risk of blood clots so you should ask your doctor
194 how soon after delivery you can start taking a combined pill.

195

196 **FEMODENE ED and cancer**

197

198 **Breast cancer** has been observed slightly more often in women using combined pills, but it is not known
199 whether this is caused by the treatment itself. For example, it may be that more tumours are detected in
200 women on combined pills because they are examined by their doctor more often. The risk of breast
201 tumours becomes gradually less after stopping the combined hormonal contraceptive. It is important to
202 regularly check your breasts and you should contact your doctor if you feel any lump.

203

204 In rare cases, **benign liver tumours**, and in even fewer cases **malignant liver tumours** have been
205 reported in contraceptive pill users. In isolated cases, these tumours have led to life-threatening internal
206 bleeding. Contact your doctor if you have unusually severe abdominal pain.

207

208 The most important risk factor for cervical cancer is persistent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection.
209 Some studies suggest that long-term use of the pill increases a woman's risk of developing **cervical**
210 **cancer**. However, it is not clear to what extent sexual behaviour or other factors such as Human
211 Papilloma Virus increases this risk.

212

213 The afore mentioned tumours may be life-threatening or may have a fatal outcome.

214

215 **Bleeding between periods**

216

217 With all Pills, for the first few months, you can have irregular vaginal bleeding (spotting or breakthrough
218 bleeding) between your periods. You may need to use sanitary protection, but continue to take your
219 tablets as normal. Irregular vaginal bleeding usually stops once your body has adjusted to the Pill (usually
220 after about 3 tablet-taking cycles). If it continues, becomes heavy or starts again, tell your doctor.

221

222 **What to do if no bleeding occurs**

223

224 If you have taken all the tablets correctly, have not had any vomiting or severe diarrhoea and you have not
225 taken any other medicines, it is highly unlikely that you are pregnant. Continue to take FEMODENE ED
226 as usual.

227 If you have taken the tablets incorrectly, or, if you have taken the tablets correctly but the expected
228 bleeding does not happen twice in a row, you may be pregnant. Contact your doctor immediately. Do not
229 start the next pack until you are sure that you are not pregnant. In the meantime, use non-hormonal
230 contraceptive measures. See also 'General notes'.
231

232 **Additional information on special populations**
233

234 *Use in children*
235

236 FEMODENE ED is not intended for use in females whose periods have not yet started.
237

238 *Use in older women*
239

240 FEMODENE ED is not intended for use after the menopause.
241

242 *Women with liver impairment*
243

244 Do not take FEMODENE ED if you suffer from liver disease. See also sections 'Do not take
245 FEMODENE ED' and 'Warnings and precautions'.
246

247 *Women with kidney impairment*
248

249 Talk to your doctor. Available data do not suggest a need to change the use of FEMODENE ED.
250

251 **Other medicines and FEMODENE ED**
252

253 Always tell your health care provider if you are taking any other medicine. This includes complementary
254 or traditional medicines. They can tell you if you need to take additional contraceptive precautions (for
255 example condoms) and if so, for how long, or, whether the use of another medicine you need must be
256 changed.
257

258 *Some medicines*

- 259 • can have an influence on the blood levels of FEMODENE ED
 - 260 • can make it less effective in preventing pregnancy
 - 261 • can cause unexpected bleeding.
- 262

263 *These include:*

- 264 • medicines used for the treatment of:
 - 265 - epilepsy (e.g. primidone, phenytoin, barbiturates, carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, topiramate,
266 felbamate)
 - 267 - tuberculosis (e.g. rifampicin)
 - 268 - HIV and Hepatitis C Virus infections (so-called protease inhibitors and non-nucleoside reverse
269 transcriptase inhibitors)
 - 270 - fungal infections (griseofulvin, azole antifungals, e.g. itraconazole, voriconazole, fluconazole)
 - 271 - bacterial infections (macrolide antibiotics, e.g. clarithromycin, erythromycin)
 - 272 - certain heart diseases, high blood pressure (calcium channel blockers, e.g. verapamil, diltiazem)
 - 273 - arthritis, arthrosis (etoricoxib)
 - 274 • the herbal remedy St. John's wort
 - 275 • grapefruit juice
- 276

277 FEMODENE ED may **influence the effect** of other medicines, e.g.

- 278 • lamotrigine
- 279 • ciclosporin
- 280 • melatonin
- 281 • midazolam
- 282 • theophylline
- 283 • tizanidine

284

285 **Laboratory tests**

286

287 If you need a blood test or other laboratory tests tell your doctor or the laboratory staff that you are taking
288 the Pill because oral contraceptives can affect the results of some tests.

289

290 **Pregnancy and breastfeeding**

291

292 Do not take FEMODENE ED if you are pregnant, or, if you think you may be pregnant. If you become
293 pregnant while taking FEMODENE ED, stop taking it immediately and contact your doctor. If you want
294 to become pregnant, you can stop taking FEMODENE ED at any time (see also 'If you stop taking
295 FEMODENE ED').

296

297 FEMODENE ED is generally not recommended for use during breastfeeding. If you want to take the Pill
298 while you are breastfeeding, you should contact your doctor.

299

300 If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, please
301 consult your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

302

303 **Driving or using machines**

304

305 No studies on the effects of the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

306

307 **FEMODENE ED contains**

308 If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor
309 before taking FEMODENE ED.

310

311

312 **3. How to take FEMODENE ED**

313

314 Do not share medicines prescribed for you with any other person.

315

316 The FEMODENE ED pack contains 28 tablets. Take your tablet at about the same time each day, with
317 some liquid if necessary. Follow the direction of the arrows until all 28 tablets have been taken. Usually a
318 period will start on day 2-3 after the last hormone-containing smaller white FEMODENE ED tablet (i.e.
319 while you are taking the last 7 hormone-free larger white tablets). Do not leave a gap between packs, i.e.
320 start taking your next pack on the day after you have finished the current one, even if your period
321 continues. This means that you will always start new packs on the same day of the week, and also that
322 you have your withdrawal bleed on about the same days every month.

323

324 **When can you start with the first pack?**

325

326 *If you have not used a contraceptive with hormones during the previous month*

327
328 Wait for your next period to occur. Start with FEMODENE ED on the first day of the cycle (= 1st day of
329 bleeding) from the silver section of the pack and select the right tablet for that day of the week (e.g. “MO”
330 for Monday). During the first cycle, you must use extra protective measures (for example, a condom) for
331 the first 14 days of FEMODENE ED use.

332
333 *Changing from another combined hormonal contraceptive pill, or combined contraceptive vaginal ring or*
334 *patch.*

335
336 You can start taking FEMODENE ED the day after you take the last tablet from your present Pill pack
337 (this means no tablet-free break). If your present Pill pack also contains hormone-free tablets you can start
338 FEMODENE ED on the day after taking the last tablet containing hormones (if you are not sure which
339 this is, ask your doctor or pharmacist). In case you have used a vaginal ring or transdermal patch, start
340 using FEMODENE ED on the day of removal of the last ring or patch of a cycle pack. If you follow these
341 instructions, it is not necessary to use an additional contraceptive method.

342
343 *Changing from a progestogen-only-method (progestogen-only pill, injection, implant or a progestogen-*
344 *releasing ‘IUS’, intrauterine system).*

345
346 You may switch from the progestogen-only pill any day (from an implant or the IUS on the day of its
347 removal, from an injectable when the next injection would be due) but in all of these cases you must use
348 extra protective measures (for example, a condom) during the first 14 days of FEMODENE ED use.

349 *After a miscarriage.*
350
351 Follow the advice of your doctor, but remember to use extra protective measures (for example, a condom)
352 during the first cycle for the first 14 days of tablet-taking.

353
354 *After having a baby*
355
356 If you have just had a baby, your doctor may tell you to wait until after your first normal period before
357 you start taking FEMODENE ED. Sometimes it is possible to start sooner. Your doctor will advise you
358 but remember to use extra protective measures (for example, a condom) during the first cycle for the first
359 14 days of tablet-taking.

360 If, after having a baby, you have had sex before starting FEMODENE ED, be sure that you are not
361 pregnant or wait until the next menstrual period.

362 If you want to start FEMODENE ED after having a baby and are breastfeeding, discuss this first with
363 your doctor.

364
365 Ask your doctor what to do if you are not sure when to start.

366
367 **If you take more FEMODENE ED than you should**

368
369 There are no reports of serious harmful effects of taking too many FEMODENE ED tablets.
370 If you take several hormone-containing tablets at once, you may feel sick or vomit or may bleed from the
371 vagina. Even girls who have not yet started to menstruate but have accidentally taken this medicine may
372 experience such bleeding.

373 In the event of overdosage, consult your doctor or pharmacist. If neither is available, contact the nearest
374 hospital or poison centre.

375
376 **If you forget to take FEMODENE ED**

377

378 Depending on the day of the cycle on which **one** tablet has been missed, you may need to take **additional**
379 **contraceptive precautions**, for example a barrier method such as a condom. **In case of doubt, contact**
380 **your doctor.**

- 381 • If you forgot to take any of the 7 hormone-free larger white tablets, you should proceed with your
382 next tablet at the normal time and discard the forgotten hormone-free larger white tablet(s) to
383 avoid any confusion. If you forgot the last tablet of your current pack it is important that you still
384 take the first tablet from the next pack at the correct time.

385 The following advice refers to the smaller white coated tablets (those containing hormones):

- 386 • If you are **less than 12 hours** late when taking a smaller white coated tablet, the protection
387 against pregnancy is not reduced. Take the tablet as soon as you remember and then continue
388 taking the tablets again at the usual time.

389 If you are **more than 12 hours** late in taking any smaller white coated tablets your protection
390 against pregnancy may be reduced. The more smaller white tablets you have forgotten, the greater
391 the risk that the protection from pregnancy is reduced. There is a particularly high risk of
392 becoming pregnant if you miss smaller white coated tablets at the beginning, right after the larger
393 white hormone-free tablets, or at the end (the last of the 21 smaller white coated tablets).

- 394 • If a hormone-containing smaller white coated tablet has been missed for more than 12 hours, use
395 extra contraceptive precautions (barrier method) for the next 7 days.

- 396 • **More than one tablet forgotten in a pack**
397 Contact your doctor.

398 **Do not take more than 2 smaller white coated tablets on a given day, to make up for missed pills.**

399 If you have forgotten smaller white coated tablets in a pack, and you do not have the expected bleeding
400 that should start while taking tablets from the silver section of your pack, you may be pregnant. Contact
401 your doctor before you start the next pack.

402 **What to do if you vomit or have severe diarrhoea**

403
404 If you vomit or have severe diarrhoea after taking any of the smaller white coated tablets, the active
405 ingredients in that tablet may not have been completely absorbed. If you vomit within 3 to 4 hours after
406 taking your tablet, this is like missing a tablet. Therefore, follow the advice under 'If you forget to take
407 FEMODENE ED'. If you have severe diarrhoea, please contact your doctor. Vomiting or diarrhoea while
408 taking the 7 hormone-free larger white tablets at the end of your blister does not have an influence on the
409 contraceptive reliability.

410 411 **If you stop taking FEMODENE ED**

412
413 You can stop taking FEMODENE ED at any time. If you do not want to become pregnant, ask your
414 doctor for advice about other reliable methods of birth control. If you want to become pregnant, stop
415 taking FEMODENE ED and wait for a menstrual period before starting to try to become pregnant. You
416 will be able to calculate the expected delivery date more easily.

417 418 **If you want to delay a period**

419
420 To delay a period you should continue with another pack of FEMODENE ED without taking the
421 remaining hormone-free larger white tablets from your current pack and the hormone-free larger white
422 tablets from the silver section of your next pack. Start with the smaller white coated tablets from your
423 next pack as soon as the smaller white coated tablets from your current pack are finished. The extension
424 can be carried on for as long as wished, until the end of the second pack. During the extension you may
425 experience breakthrough bleeding or spotting. Regular intake of FEMODENE ED is then resumed after
426 the hormone-free larger white tablet phase.
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4. Possible side effects

FEMODENE ED can have side effects.
Not all side effects reported for FEMODENE ED are included in this leaflet. Should your general health worsen or if you experience any untoward effects while taking FEMODENE ED, please consult your health care provider for advice.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

Frequent side effects:

- nausea
- abdominal pain
- weight gain
- headache
- depressed or altered mood
- breast pain including breast tenderness

Less frequent side effects:

- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- fluid retention
- migraine
- reduced interest in sex
- breast enlargement
- rash
- urticaria (hives)
- contact lens intolerance
- allergic reactions (hypersensitivity)
- weight loss
- increased interest in sex
- vaginal discharge
- breast discharge
- erythema nodosum or multiforme (skin disorders)
- venous and arterial thromboembolic events*

* Estimated frequency, from epidemiological studies encompassing a group of combined oral contraceptives. The term venous and arterial thromboembolic events covers the following: any blockage or clot in a deep peripheral vein, clots which travel through the venous blood system (e.g. to the lung known as pulmonary embolism or as pulmonary infarction), heart attack caused by blood clots, stroke caused by blockage of the blood supply to or in the brain

Description of selected adverse reactions

Adverse reactions with very low frequency or with delayed onset of symptoms which are considered to be related to the group of combined oral contraceptives are listed below (see also sections ‘Do not take FEMODENE ED’ and ‘Warnings and precautions’):

477 *Tumours*

- 478 • The frequency of diagnosis of breast cancer is very slightly increased among users of oral
479 contraceptives. As breast cancer is rare in women under 40 years of age the excess number is small in
480 relation to the overall risk of breast cancer. It is not known whether there is a direct link to users of
481 combined oral contraceptives.
482 • liver tumours (benign and malignant)
483

484 *Other conditions*

- 485 • women with hypertriglyceridemia (increased blood fats resulting in an increased risk of pancreatitis
486 when using combined oral contraceptives)
487 • high blood pressure
488 • occurrence or worsening of conditions for which a link to combined oral contraceptives is not
489 definite: jaundice and/or itching related to cholestasis (blocked bile flow); gallstone formation; a
490 metabolic condition called porphyria; systemic lupus erythematosus (a chronic autoimmune disease);
491 haemolytic uremic syndrome (a blood clotting disease); a neurological condition called Sydenham's
492 chorea; herpes gestationis (a type of skin condition that occurs during pregnancy); otosclerosis-related
493 hearing loss
494 • In women with hereditary angioedema (characterised by sudden swelling of e.g. the eyes, mouth,
495 throat etc.) external estrogens may induce or worsen symptoms of angioedema
496 • disturbed liver function
497 • changes in glucose tolerance or effect on peripheral insulin resistance
498 • Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis
499 • chloasma
500

501 *Interactions*

502 Unexpected bleeding and/or contraceptive failure may result from interactions of other medicines with
503 oral contraceptives (e.g. the herbal remedy St. John's wort, or medicines for epilepsy, tuberculosis, HIV
504 infections and other infections). See section 'Other medicines and FEMODENE ED').
505

506 **Reporting of side effects**

507
508 If you get side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. You can also report side effects to SAHPRA via
509 the "**6.04 Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting Form**", found online under SAHPRA's publications:
510 <https://www.sahpra.org.za/Publications/Index/8>. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more
511 information on the safety of FEMODENE ED.
512
513

514 **5. How to store FEMODENE ED**

515 Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
516 Store at or below 30 °C.
517 Protect from light.
518 Store in the blister in the outer carton.
519
520

521 **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

522 **What FEMODENE ED contains**

523 21 smaller white tablets containing ethinylestradiol (0,030 mg) and gestodene (0,075 mg). 7 larger white
524 hormone-free tablets.
525

Applicant/PHRC: Bayer (Pty) Ltd

Dosage form: Coated tablet

Product proprietary name: FEMODENE ED

526 The other ingredients are lactose monohydrate, maize starch, povidone 25 000, sodium calcium edetate,
527 magnesium stearate, sucrose, povidone 700 000, macrogol 6000, calcium carbonate, talc, montanglycol
528 wax.

529

530 What FEMODENE ED looks like and contents of the pack

531

532 FEMODENE ED is presented as a blister pack containing 21 coated tablets containing hormones and 7
533 hormone-free coated tablets.

534 The tablet containing hormones is smaller, white, round with convex faces.

535 The hormone-free tablet is larger, white, round with convex faces.

536

537 FEMODENE ED tablets are contained in blister packs consisting of transparent films made of polyvinyl
538 chloride and metallic foils made of aluminium. The blister is sealed in a hermetic foil pouch. The pouch is
539 packed in a cardboard carton.

540

541 Holder of Certificate of Registration

542

543 Bayer (Pty) Ltd

544 Reg. No.: 1968/011192/07

545 27 Wrench Road

546 Isando

547 1609

548

549 This leaflet was last revised in

550

551 20 May 2022

552

553 Registration number

554

555 W/21.8.2/98