New and Emerging SERDs / ER Degraders for Breast Cancer

CAT EDUCATE - patient-friendly overview for Connect & Thrive

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Educational note: This document is for general education only. It is not medical advice and should not be used to choose, start, stop, or change treatment. Patients should discuss treatment eligibility, ESR1 testing, side effects, sequencing, and clinical trial options with their oncology team.

1. Why this topic matters

Many breast cancers are estrogen receptor-positive (ER-positive), meaning cancer cells may use estrogen signaling to grow. Endocrine therapies are designed to interrupt this signaling, but resistance can develop over time.

One important resistance mechanism is mutation in ESR1, the gene encoding estrogen receptor alpha. Newer oral SERDs and ER degraders are being developed to block the estrogen receptor and/or promote its degradation, particularly for ER-positive, HER2-negative advanced or metastatic breast cancer after progression on prior endocrine therapy.

For CAT, this topic may be useful because it helps patients and caregivers understand why molecular testing and newer endocrine therapy options are becoming increasingly important in breast cancer care.

2. Plain-language definitions

SERD: Selective estrogen receptor degrader. A drug designed to bind the estrogen receptor and help break it down, reducing estrogen-driven cancer signaling.

ER-positive breast cancer: Breast cancer that uses estrogen receptor signaling as one growth pathway.

HER2-negative breast cancer: Breast cancer that does not overexpress HER2 or have HER2 amplification in the way HER2-positive cancers do.

ESR1 mutation: A change in the estrogen receptor gene that can make cancer less responsive to some traditional endocrine therapies.

Oral SERD / ER degrader: A pill-based endocrine therapy approach. This differs from fulvestrant, an older SERD given by injection.

PROTAC / heterobifunctional degrader: A drug design strategy that brings a target protein to the cell machinery that breaks proteins down. Vepdegestrant is an example in the estrogen receptor space.

3. Organized drug list

Drug	Brand / developer	Status as of May 28, 2026	Patient-friendly summary
Elacestrant	Orserdu / Stemline Therapeutics	FDA-approved January 27, 2023	Oral SERD approved for postmenopausal women or adult men with ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer after progression following at least one line of endocrine therapy.
Imlunestrant	Inluriyo / Eli Lilly	FDA-approved September 25, 2025	Oral estrogen receptor antagonist approved for adults with ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer after disease progression following at least one line of endocrine therapy.
Vepdegestrant	Veppanu / Arvinas	FDA-approved May 1, 2026	Oral heterobifunctional estrogen receptor degrader approved for adults with ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer detected by an FDA-authorized test, after progression following at least one line of endocrine therapy.

Drug	Brand / developer	Status as of May 28, 2026	Patient-friendly summary
Camizestrant	AstraZeneca	Investigational / regulatory review	Oral SERD being studied in ER-positive breast cancer. In May 2026, the FDA extended its review to evaluate additional data; the European Medicines Agency committee recommended approval in combination with CDK4/6 inhibitors.
Giredestrant	Roche / Genentech	Investigational; FDA accepted NDA	Oral SERD being studied in advanced and early-stage ER-positive breast cancer. Roche announced FDA acceptance of an NDA for giredestrant plus everolimus in ESR1-mutated, ER-positive advanced breast cancer, with a target decision date of December 18, 2026.

4. Suggested CAT EDUCATE wording

What are SERDs? SERDs, or selective estrogen receptor degraders, are medicines designed to bind to the estrogen receptor and help break it down. This may be helpful in ER-positive breast cancer, where cancer cells often depend on estrogen signaling to grow.

Why are newer oral SERDs important? Some breast cancers become resistant to standard endocrine therapy over time. Newer oral SERDs and ER degraders are important because they may provide additional options after resistance develops, especially when ESR1 mutations are present.

Which therapies are already approved? As of May 28, 2026, FDA-approved oral SERD/ER degrader options in this specific setting include elacestrant, imlunestrant, and vepdegestrant. Each has a specific approved patient population and should only be considered with an oncology team.

Which therapies are still being studied? Camizestrant and giredestrant are examples of investigational oral SERDs being evaluated through clinical trials and regulatory review. Their role in care depends on trial evidence, regulatory decisions, and individual patient factors.

5. Simple sharing blurb for Christine

> *I organized a patient-friendly overview of newer SERDs and estrogen receptor degraders for ER-positive breast cancer, including FDA-approved therapies and investigational drugs still in regulatory review or clinical development. I separated the information into plain-language definitions, drug status, and why these therapies matter for patients. This could be considered for the CAT EDUCATE section as general education only, with a clear note that patients should discuss all treatment decisions with their oncology team.*

6. Notes for safe public sharing

• Use patient-friendly language and avoid implying that any drug is appropriate for every patient with ER-positive breast cancer.

• Separate FDA-approved therapies from investigational therapies.

• Mention that ESR1 mutation testing may be needed for eligibility for some approved therapies.

• Avoid ranking therapies or comparing side effects without physician review and current prescribing information.

• Include a clear “educational only, not medical advice” note.

7. References

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA approves elacestrant for ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer. January 27, 2023. https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-approves-elacestrant-er-positive-her2-negative-esr1-mutated-advanced-or-metastatic-breast-cancer

2. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA approves imlunestrant for ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer. September 25, 2025. https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-approves-imlunestrant-er-positive-her2-negative-esr1-mutated-advanced-or-metastatic-breast

3. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA approves vepdegestrant for ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer. May 1, 2026. https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-approves-vepdegestrant-er-positive-her2-negative-esr1-mutated-advanced-or-metastatic-breast

4. Reuters. U.S. FDA extends review of AstraZeneca experimental breast cancer pill. May 27, 2026. https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-fda-extends-review-astrazenecas-experimental-breast-cancer-pill-2026-05-27/

5. Roche. FDA accepts New Drug Application for Roche's giredestrant in ESR1-mutated, ER-positive advanced breast cancer. February 20, 2026. https://www.roche.com/media/releases/med-cor-2026-02-20