

Medication Information Sheet

buserelin (long-acting) (byoo-SE-rel-in)

This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.

Other name: Suprefact Depot®

Appearance: White-cream coloured cylindrical rod-shaped implants

What it is used for

- For treating prostate cancer

Before receiving it

- Tell your doctor if you have/had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had heart disease (including irregular heartbeat), depression, high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis or risk factors for osteoporosis, or any allergies.
- People who have cancer or leukemia are at a higher risk of developing other cancers/leukemias (usually some years later) or blood clots. Some cancer medications may increase these risks, especially if used for a prolonged period of time. You should discuss any concerns with your doctor.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

- This drug may harm or affect the growth of embryos/offspring of animals exposed to it.
- While this may not be directly applicable to you, if there is **ANY** chance that you/your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must: ► **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time while taking this drug:** Keep using birth control until at least **6 months** after the last dose (general recommendation). Discuss with your healthcare team.
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed while taking this drug.
- Effects on Fertility: Probable

How it is given

- This drug is given by injection under the skin.
- Various dosing schedules are used - check with your health care professional about how often you are given this medication.
- Be sure to visit your doctor for your repeat injections. Speak to your health care professional to see what drugs and supplies you need to bring for your visit.

While receiving it

- This drug can interact with other drugs, and can result in the drugs not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your doctor and pharmacist know about all your medicines (prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and supplements). Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting or stopping any of them.

Safety / Storage

- Store in the original packaging at room temperature, away from heat, light or moisture. Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- Do not throw out any unused drugs at home. Bring them to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

Side effects and what to do

The following side effects are common or severe. You may not have all of the side effects listed, while others not on this list may also occur. Discuss with your doctor if you have any unusual or bothersome symptoms.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Most Common Side Effects	
High blood pressure • Check your blood pressure regularly; medication to treat high blood pressure may be needed.	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Reactions at the injection site (<i>redness, burning, stinging, pain, itchiness, mild rash or swelling</i>) • Usually mild and go away after a few days	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Trouble falling asleep • Talk to your doctor if this bothers you.	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Mild joint or muscle pain • Take painkiller(s) as directed, if given to you by your doctor. • Otherwise, take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets as needed for mild aches and pains. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the right dose for you. • Rest often, but may try light exercise.	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Flare of symptoms (pain at tumour area, increased bone or back pain, difficulty passing urine or poor bladder/bowel control) • Increase of prostate size and worsening of cancer symptoms - may be severe • Usually happens within the first 2 weeks of starting treatment. • If you have severe bone pain, worsening problems with passing urine, severe numbness or trouble with movements, call your doctor right away.	Get emergency medical help right away

High blood sugar (increased thirst, urinates frequently) • Check your blood sugar if you have diabetes.	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Symptoms of having low testosterone levels • Hot flashes, memory loss • Breast swelling or tenderness • Decrease in sexual desire, impotence • Osteoporosis • Contact your doctor or nurse if these symptoms bother you.	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Abnormal cholesterol or fat levels in the blood • Your doctor may monitor these regularly.	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Anemia (unusual tiredness or weakness, pale skin) • May occur in weeks to months after treatment starts • May be due to low red blood cells • Rest often. Have a well-balanced diet. • Light exercise may help, with short activity times and in-between breaks. • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you feel tired or weak. • Also see Anemia pamphlet.*	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
Unusual changes in personality or mood (for example, depression)	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Blood clot (limb pain or swelling, hardened vein in limb), may occur in lungs (sudden start of coughing, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood) Blockage of an artery (blood vessel) in your heart, brain, chest, belly, or limbs; this may result in stroke (sudden loss of vision, speech, or the use of your limb(s)) or heart attack (chest pain, shortness of breath), or pain in chest, belly or limb	Get emergency medical help right away
Heart problems (irregular heartbeat, chest pain, fainting, swelling, shortness of breath)	Get emergency medical help right away
Allergic reaction (severe rash, itchiness, swollen face, lip or tongue, chest or throat tightness; may occur during or shortly after the drug is given)	Get emergency medical help right away
Bone pain; Bone loss	Contact doctor if no improvement or if severe
Abnormal growth in the pituitary gland (unusual headaches, visual or weight changes)	Contact doctor as soon as possible (office hours)

The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses,

directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.

A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.