Changing to Decapeptyl® SR (triptorelin)

Information for patients who have moved from another GnRHa to Decapeptyl® SR.

This guide is intended only for men prescribed Decapeptyl® SR.

For further information about Decapeptyl® SR you should also refer to the Patient Information Leaflet provided with Decapeptyl® SR.

This booklet has been comissioned by Ipsen.

Reporting of side-effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in Google Play or Apple App Store. Side effects should also be reported to Ipsen via email at pharmacovigilance.uk-ie@ipsen.com or phone on 01753 627777. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

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Why has my medicine changed?

Your doctor has reviewed your treatment and believes that changing to Decapeptyl® SR may suit you.

What kind of medicine is Decapeptyl® SR?

Decapeptyl® SR is a hormone therapy for the treatment of prostate cancer.

Decapeptyl® SR belongs to a class of drugs called gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogues (GnRHas), sometimes also called luteinising hormone-releasing hormone agonists (LHRHas).

GnRHas are given to reduce the level of testosterone in your body. Prostate cancer needs testosterone to grow. Changing to Decapeptyl® SR will mean you are still taking GnRHa therapy for prostate cancer.

Decapeptyl® SR is mixed in a vial to form a suspension which is injected into a muscle, usually the buttocks.

Will changing my treatment affect my cancer?

There is no reason to be concerned about changing GnRHa to Decapeptyl® SR. Your disease will continue to be monitored carefully and your doctor may perform blood tests to check how you are doing.

Will changing my treatment cause side effects?

It is important to remember that any medical treatment can cause side effects. However, it is unlikely that you should experience any new or different side effects when you change to Decapeptyl® SR, as you have already been receiving treatment with another GnRHa. Most of the side effects of Decapeptyl® SR occur because it is working to lower the levels of testosterone in your body – these side effects are very similar for all drugs that work by reducing testosterone levels.

The most common side effects associated with Decapeptyl® SR (those which may affect more than 1 in 10 people) are hot flushes, weakness, excessive sweating, back pain, pins and needles sensation in the legs, reduced libido and impotence.

Other side effects which are common (those which may affect up to 1 in 10 patients) may include nausea, dry mouth, pain, bruising, redness and swelling of injection site, muscle and bone pain, pain in the arms and legs, oedema (build-up of fluid in the body tissues), lower abdominal pain, high blood pressure, allergic reaction, increase in weight, dizziness, headache, loss of libido, depression and mood changes.

Refer to the Patient Information Leaflet for side effects which are uncommon, rare and not known.

If you experience any unwanted effects from your treatment which make you uncomfortable, or cause you distress, please talk to your doctor or nurse. They will be happy to help and can provide treatment and/or advice. You should also tell your doctor if you think your symptoms have worsened or changed, particularly if you are experiencing more pain or if you have difficulty passing urine during the course of your treatment.

How has my treatment been changed?

It is very easy. The next time you come for your usual GnRHa injection, your doctor or nurse will give you Decapeptyl® SR instead. You will then have a repeat injection according to the dosing schedule.

What if I still want to see the nurse or doctor?

You only need to come into the surgery between injections if you or your doctor feel you need to. Remember, you can book an appointment at any time to see your GP or practice nurse if you have any particular concerns about your treatment or any other health issue.

Special warnings and precautions

At the beginning of treatment there will be an increased amount of testosterone in your body. This may cause the symptoms of the cancer to worsen. Contact your doctor if this happens. Your doctor may give you some medicine (an anti-androgen) to prevent your symptoms from getting worse.

You should also inform your doctor if you have diabetes, heart problems, heart or blood vessel conditions, including heart rhythm problems (arrhythmia), or are being treated with medicines for these conditions.

Once you start treatment with Decapeptyl® SR, inform your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following: depressed mood, convulsions, symptoms due to compression of your spine cord (e.g. pain, numbness or weakness of legs) and blockage in the urethra (where you pass urine). Your healthcare team will be able to monitor and treat you for these conditions appropriately.

Decapeptyl® SR may increase your risk of developing anaemia (low levels of red blood cells). It may also cause thinning of the bones (osteoporosis) with an increased risk of bone fractures. Do inform your doctor if you have any of the following risk factors as they might give you bisphosphonate (drugs used to treat weak bones) to treat bone loss. Risk factors may include:

- If you or any of your close family have thinning of the bones
- If you drink excessive amounts of alcohol, and/or smoke heavily, and/or have a poor diet
- If you take medicines for epilepsy or steroids (such as hydrocortisone or prednisolone) over a long period of time

Please refer to the patient information leaflet for more information on special warnings and precautions.

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