Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

OCTREOTIDE (long-acting injection)

ock-tree-oh-tide

What does it do?

Octreotide is used to treat acromegaly, by reducing the amount of growth hormone in your body. It is also used to treat the symptoms of certain types of cancers or tumours, and sometimes other conditions.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have diabetes, vitamin B12 deficiency, or gallstones.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. If you plan to get pregnant, or find you are pregnant, discuss this with your doctor. Women should use reliable contraception while taking *octreotide*.

How is it given?

Octreotide is given as an injection into a muscle.

The first long-acting injection may take a few weeks to start working. Your doctor will discuss whether you need extra doses of the short-acting *octreotide* during this time.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and inject your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, inject the missed dose as soon as possible. Do not inject two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Irregular heartbeat, fainting, lightheaded Severe stomach pain, nausea	Tell your doctor immediately
Low blood sugar: symptoms may include sweating, trembling, feeling anxious or irritable Peeing more often, feeling thirsty	Tell your doctor
Headache Hair loss or thinning Tiredness or weakness Stomach upset, farting, oily bowel motions Irritation or pain at injection site	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- You will need regular blood tests while taking *octreotide* to check if it is causing problems with your liver or thyroid.
- Store *octreotide* in the fridge. Keep it in the box to protect from light.