

Leuprolide Acetate for Fertility Preservation

(LOO-pro-lyde ASS-e-tate)

Also known as: (Lupron®)

Some chemotherapy drugs can affect fertility. They can destroy some of the follicles in the ovary. Each follicle contains a single egg, so this will result in fewer healthy eggs. This may make it more difficult to become pregnant in the future. It may even cause premature (early) menopause. Leuprolide may protect the follicles from being damaged during treatment. We do not know for sure if it will be effective for you. Some doctors feel it may help; others feel that it has no benefit. A number of studies are being carried out to find out how effective the drug is and who may benefit most from it. To preserve your fertility, you can also have your eggs collected before you begin treatment. Speak with your cancer doctor to see if collecting eggs is an option for you.

How it is Given

Intramuscularly (IM), meaning into muscle

The medication is usually started one to two weeks before you begin your chemotherapy. It will continue the entire time you are on treatment. The injection is given once a month. Or, a larger dose can be given every three months. You will come to the center and your nurse will give you the injection.

Side Effects

- Hot flashes and sweating
- Headache
- Mood changes
- Pain or swelling at injection site
- Decreased sexual desire
- Vaginal dryness
- No menstrual periods, although light spotting may occur
- Tiredness
- Decreased bone density (bone loss)
- Mild nausea (rare)
- Joint pain

Special Points

- Tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking any other medicines or have changed medicines. Some medicines may affect the way this drug works. Include:
 - Medicines that require a prescription.

- Medicines that do not require a prescription (over-the-counter).
 - Herbal remedies.
 - Vitamins.
 - Dietary supplements.
- This medicine should not be taken if you are pregnant. Tell your doctor immediately if you think you might be pregnant. You must use birth control while on this medicine. Because this medicine affects your hormone levels, it is best to use a barrier method (a diaphragm, condom, or both).

Call Your Doctor or Nurse If You Have:

- Heavy bleeding or regular periods after two treatments.
- A sudden headache, vomiting, change in your vision.
- Any unexpected or unexplained problems.
- Any questions or concerns.

The information on this card is selective and does not cover all possible side effects; others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor.



Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center

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1275 York Avenue, New York, New York 10065