

LUCRIN[®] DEPOT

11.25mg

STERILE LEUPRORELIN ACETATE FOR DEPOT SUSPENSION – 3 MONTH

DESCRIPTION

Leuporelin acetate is a synthetic nonapeptide analog of naturally occurring gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH or LH-RH). The analog possesses greater potency than the natural hormone.

The chemical name is 5-oxo-L-prolyl-L-histidyl-L-tryptophyl-L-seryl-L-tyrosyl-D-leucyl-L-leucyl-L-arginyl-N-ethyl-L-prolinamide acetate (salt). During the manufacture of leuporelin acetate depot suspension, acetic acid is lost leaving the peptide.

Leuporelin acetate for depot suspension 3-Month (11.25mg) is a formulation of leuporelin acetate supplied in a prefilled dual chamber syringe containing sterile lyophilised microspheres. When mixed with diluent, it becomes a suspension which is administered as an intramuscular or subcutaneous injection every 3 months.

The compound is easily soluble in polar solutions such as water and anhydrous ethanol and propylene glycol. It is nearly insoluble in chloroform. The pH value of a solution containing 100 mg dry powder of leuporelin acetate in one mL of solution is approximately 5 to 7.

The front chamber of Lucrin Depot Prefilled Dual Chamber Syringe contains leuporelin acetate (11.25 mg), polylactic acid (99.3 mg), and D-mannitol (19.45 mg). The second chamber of diluent contains carboxymethylcellulose sodium (5 mg), D-mannitol (50 mg), polysorbate 80 (1 mg), water for injection, Ph Eur, and glacial acetic acid, Ph Eur to control pH.

INDICATIONS

Prostate Cancer

Leuporelin acetate for depot suspension is indicated in the palliative treatment of advanced prostatic cancer. It offers an alternative treatment of prostatic cancer when orchiectomy or estrogen administration are either not indicated or unacceptable to the patient.

In clinical trials, the safety and efficacy of leuporelin acetate for depot suspension does not differ from that of the daily subcutaneous injection dosage.

Endometriosis

Leuporelin acetate for depot suspension is indicated in the treatment of endometriosis for a period of six months. It can be used as sole therapy or as an adjunct to surgery. Leuporelin acetate for depot suspension with norethisterone 5mg daily as add-back is also indicated for treatment of endometriosis for a period of six months.

Uterine Fibroids

Leuporelin acetate for depot suspension is also indicated in the treatment of leiomyoma uteri (uterine fibroids), as a pre-operative treatment only, for a period up to six months.

Breast Cancer

Leuporelin acetate for depot suspension is indicated for the treatment of breast cancer in pre- and peri-menopausal women in which hormone therapy is specified.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

General

Leuporelin acetate for depot suspension must be administered under the supervision of a physician.

As with other drugs administered by injection, the injection site should be varied periodically.

Since the product does not contain a preservative, the suspension should be discarded if not used immediately.

Prostate Cancer

In patients treated with GnRH analogues for prostate cancer, treatment is usually continued upon development of castration-resistant prostate cancer. Reference should be made to relevant guidelines.

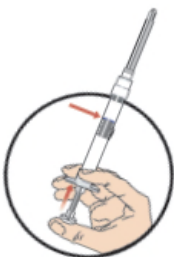
The recommended dose of leuporelin acetate for depot suspension (11.25 mg) is 11.25 mg, administered as a single subcutaneous or intramuscular injection **every three months**.

Preparation for Administration

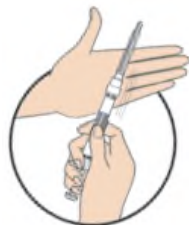
For optimal performance of the Prefilled Dual Chamber Syringe (PDS), read and follow the following instructions:



1. To prepare for injection, screw the white plunger into the end stopper until the stopper begins to turn.



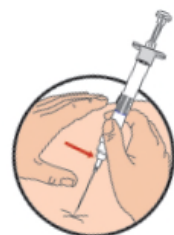
2. Hold the syringe UPRIGHT. Release the diluent by SLOWLY PUSHING (6 to 8 seconds) the plunger until the first stopper is at the blue line in the middle of the barrel.



3. Keep the syringe UPRIGHT. Gently mix the microspheres (particles) thoroughly to form a uniform suspension. The suspension will appear milky.



4. Hold the syringe UPRIGHT. With the opposite hand, pull the needle cap upward without twisting.
5. Keep the syringe UPRIGHT. Advance the plunger to expel the air from the syringe.



6. Inject the entire contents of the syringe at the time of the reconstitution. The suspension settles very quickly following reconstitution; therefore, leuporelin acetate should be mixed and used immediately. Re-shake the suspension if settling occurs.

Note: Aspirated blood would be visible just below the luer lock connection if a blood vessel is accidentally penetrated. If present, blood can be seen through the transparent hub of the needle.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Leuporelin acetate is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to leuporelin acetate, similar nonapeptides, or any of the excipients.

Isolated cases of anaphylaxis have been reported with the monthly formulation of leuporelin acetate.

Leuporelin acetate is contraindicated in women who are or may become pregnant while receiving the drug. When administered on day 6 of pregnancy at test dosages of 0.00024, 0.0024, and 0.024 mg/kg (1/300 to 1/3* of the human dose) to rabbits, leuporelin acetate (Depot Formulation) produced a dose-related increase in major fetal abnormalities. Similar studies in rats failed to demonstrate an increase in fetal malformations. There was increased fetal mortality and decreased fetal weights with the two higher doses of the monthly formulation of leuporelin acetate in rabbits and with the highest dose in rats. The effects on fetal mortality are logical consequences of the alterations in hormonal levels brought about by this drug. Therefore, the possibility exists that spontaneous abortion may occur if the drug is administered during pregnancy.

* **NOTE:** the safety margin has been calculated based on the estimated average daily release of leuporelin acetate from the depot formulation both for human and animals. An overall safety margin has been used that is expected to represent all of the leuporelin acetate formulations worldwide adequately.

Leuporelin acetate should not be administered to patients with undiagnosed vaginal bleeding.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

All Populations

During the early phase of therapy, gonadotropins and sex steroids rise above baseline because of the natural stimulatory effect of the drug. Therefore, an increase in clinical signs and symptoms may be observed (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**).

Worsening of pre-existing signs and symptoms during the first weeks of treatment may occur. Worsening of symptoms may contribute to paralysis with or without fatal complications.

Safe use of leuporelin acetate in pregnancy has not been established clinically. Before starting treatment with leuporelin acetate, it is advisable to establish whether the patient is pregnant. Leuporelin acetate is not a contraceptive. If contraception is required, a nonhormonal method of contraception should be used.

Bone Mineral Density

Bone mineral density changes can occur during any hypoestrogenic state in women and in long-term use in prostate cancer in men. There is no data in men regarding reversibility after withdrawal of leuporelin acetate. In women, bone mineral density loss may be reversible after withdrawal of leuporelin acetate (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS: Women**).

Convulsions

Postmarketing reports of convulsions have been observed in patients receiving GnRH agonists, including leuporelin acetate. These included patients in the female and pediatric populations, patients with a history of seizures, epilepsy, cerebrovascular disorders, central nervous system anomalies or tumors, and in patients on concomitant medications that have been associated with convulsions such as bupropion and SSRIs. Convulsions have also been reported in patients in the absence of any of the conditions mentioned above.

Men

Prostate Cancer

Initially, leuporelin acetate, like other LH-RH agonists, causes increases in serum levels of

testosterone to approximately 50% above baseline during the first week of treatment. Transient worsening of symptoms, or the occurrence of additional signs and symptoms of prostate cancer, may occasionally develop during the first few weeks of leuporelin acetate for depot suspension treatment. A small number of patients may experience a temporary increase in bone pain, which can be managed symptomatically. As with other LH-RH agonist, isolated cases of ureteral obstruction and spinal cord compression have been observed, which may contribute to paralysis with or without fatal complications. For patients at risk, initiation of therapy with daily leuporelin acetate injection for the first two weeks to facilitate withdrawal of treatment may be considered. Patients with metastatic vertebral lesions and/or with urinary tract obstruction should be closely observed during the first few weeks of therapy.

Hyperglycemia and an increased risk of developing diabetes have been reported in men receiving GnRH agonists. Hyperglycemia may represent development of diabetes mellitus or worsening of glycemic control in patients with diabetes. Monitor blood glucose and/or glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) periodically in patients receiving GnRH agonists, and manage with current practice for treatment of hyperglycemia or diabetes.

Increased risk of developing myocardial infarction, sudden cardiac death and stroke has been reported in association with use of GnRH agonists in men. The risk appears low based on the reported odds ratios, and should be evaluated carefully along with cardiovascular risk factors when determining a treatment for patients with prostate cancer. Patients receiving GnRH agonists, should be monitored for symptoms and signs suggestive of development of cardiovascular disease and be managed according to current clinical practice.

Effect on QT/QTc Interval

In patients with a history of or risk factors for QT prolongation and in patients receiving concomitant medicinal products that might prolong the QT interval, physicians should assess the benefit risk ratio including the potential for Torsade de pointes prior to initiating leuporelin acetate. Since androgen deprivation treatment may prolong the QT interval, the concomitant use of leuporelin acetate with medicinal products known to prolong the QT interval or medicinal products able to induce Torsade de pointes such as class IA (e.g. quinidine, disopyramide) or class III (e.g. amiodarone, sotalol, dofetilide, ibutilide) antiarrhythmic medicinal products, methadone, moxifloxacin, antipsychotics, etc. should be carefully evaluated.

Laboratory Tests

Response to leuporelin acetate should be monitored by measuring serum levels of testosterone, as well as prostate-specific antigen. In the majority of patients, testosterone levels increased above baseline during the first week, declining thereafter to baseline levels or below by the end of the second week. Castrate levels were reached within two to four weeks and once achieved were maintained in most patients for as long as the patients received their injections on time.

Women

Endometriosis / Uterine Fibroids

During the early phase of therapy, sex steroids temporarily rise above baseline because of the physiological effect of the drug. Therefore, an increase in clinical signs and symptoms may be observed during the initial days of therapy, but these will dissipate with continued therapy at adequate doses. However, reports of heavy vaginal bleeding requiring medical or surgical intervention with continued therapy have been reported in the treatment of submucous leiomyoma uteri.

Safe use of leuporelin acetate in pregnancy has not been established clinically. Before starting treatment with leuporelin acetate, it is advisable to establish whether the patient is pregnant. Leuporelin acetate is not a contraceptive. If contraception is required, a nonhormonal method of contraception should be used.

Since bone loss can be anticipated as part of natural menopause, it may also be expected to occur during a medically-induced hypoestrogenic state. Bone loss has been found to be reversible after completion of a six month course of leuporelin acetate. No data are available for women receiving the drug for a longer interval.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

No pharmacokinetic-based drug-drug interaction studies have been conducted with leuporelin acetate. However, because leuporelin acetate is a peptide that is primarily degraded by peptidase and not by cytochrome P-450 enzymes as noted in specific studies, and the drug is only about 46% bound to plasma proteins, drug interactions would not be expected to occur.

Prostate Cancer

See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**, Men, *Effect on QT/QTc Interval*.

Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions

Administration of leuporelin acetate depot in women results in suppression of the pituitary-gonadal system. Normal function is usually restored within three months after leuporelin acetate depot treatment is discontinued. Therefore, diagnostic tests of pituitary gonadotropic and gonadal functions conducted during treatment and for up to three months after discontinuation of leuporelin acetate depot may be misleading.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Pregnancy

See **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**: Women.

Lactation

It is not known whether leuporelin acetate is excreted in human milk. Therefore, it should not be used by nursing mothers.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions are commonly associated with the pharmacological actions of leuporelin acetate on steroidogenesis:

Men:

Neoplasm benign, malignant and unspecified (including cysts and polyps): prostate tumor flare, aggravation of prostate cancer

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: weight gain, weight loss

Psychiatric disorders: Loss or decreased libido, increased libido

Nervous system disorders: headache, muscular weakness

Vascular disorders: vasodilatation, hot flushes, hypotension, orthostatic hypotension

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: dry skin, hyperhidrosis, rash, urticaria, hair growth abnormal, hair disorder, night sweats, hypotrichosis, pigmentation disorder, cold sweats, hirsutism

Reproductive system and breast disorders: gynaecomastia, breast tenderness, erectile dysfunction, testicular pain, breast enlargement, breast pain, prostate pain, penile swelling, penis disorder, testis atrophy

General disorders and administration site conditions: mucosal dryness

Investigations: PSA increased, bone density decreased

Long exposure (6 to 12 months): Diabetes mellitus, glucose tolerance impaired, total cholesterol increased, LDL increased, triglycerides increased, osteoporosis.

Women:

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: weight gain, weight loss

Psychiatric disorders: Loss or decreased libido, increased libido, affect lability

Nervous system disorders: headache

Vascular disorders: hot flushes, vasodilatation, hypotension

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: acne, seborrhea, dry skin, urticaria, skin odour abnormal, hyperhidrosis, hair growth abnormal, hirsutism, hair disorder, eczema, nail disorder, night sweats

Reproductive system and breast disorders: vaginal haemorrhage, dysmenorrhea, menstrual disorder, breast enlargement, breast engorgement, breast atrophy, genital discharge, vaginal discharge, galactorrhea, breast pain, metrorrhagia, menopausal symptoms, dyspareunia, uterine disorder, vulvovaginitis, menorrhagia

General disorders and administration site conditions: feeling hot, irritability

Investigations: bone density decreased

Long exposure (6 to 12 months): Diabetes mellitus, glucose tolerance impaired, total cholesterol increased, LDL increased, triglycerides increased, osteoporosis.

Clinical and Postmarketing:

The following sections present adverse reactions seen in clinical studies or postmarketing experience. They are arranged by patient populations: Men and Women

Men:

Prostate Cancer

In the majority of patients testosterone levels increased above baseline during the first week, declining thereafter to baseline levels or below by the end of the second week of treatment. Potential exacerbations of signs and symptoms during the first few weeks of treatment is a concern in patients with vertebral metastases and/or urinary obstruction or hematuria which, if aggravated, may lead to neurological problems such as temporary weakness and/or paresthesia of the lower limbs or worsening of urinary symptoms (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**).

Table 1 presents all adverse drug reactions (ADR) and frequencies (very common ($\geq 1/10$); common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$); uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$); not known (unable to estimate frequency based upon available data) from prostate cancer clinical studies and post marketing experience. A blank indicates that the ADR was not seen from that particular source.

As leuporelin acetate has multiple indications, and therefore patient populations, some of these postmarketing adverse reactions may not be applicable to every patient. For a majority of these adverse reactions, a cause and effect relationship has not been established.

Table 1: Prostate Cancer			
System Organ Class	Preferred Term	11.25 mg / 3 month (EC001, EC002, n=181) Frequency	Post Marketing Frequency
Infections and infestations	Infection		Not known
	Bronchitis	Common	
	Urinary tract infection	Common	Not known
	Infected cyst	Uncommon	
	Viral infection	Uncommon	
	Candidiasis	Uncommon	
	Sepsis	Uncommon	
	Pharyngitis		Not known
	Pneumonia		Not known
Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (incl cysts and polyps)	Pseudolymphoma	Uncommon	
	Skin cancer		Not known
Blood and lymphatic system disorder	Anaemia	Common	Not known
	Eosinophilia	Uncommon	
Immune system disorders	Hypersensitivity	Uncommon	
	Anaphylactic reaction		Not known
Endocrine disorders	Goiter		Not known
	Pituitary apoplexy		Not known
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Anorexia	Common	
	Diabetes mellitus		Not known
	Increased appetite		Not known
	Hyperglycemia	Uncommon	
	Hypoglycemia	Uncommon	Not known
	Dehydration	Uncommon	Not known
	Hyperlipidaemia		Not known
	Hyperphosphataemia		Not known
	Hypoproteinaemia		Not known
	Abnormal weight gain	Very common	
	Abnormal loss of weight	Common	
Psychiatric disorders	Mood swings ^a		Not known
	Nervousness		Not known
	Libido decreased	Very common	
	Libido increased		Not known
	Insomnia	Common	Not known
	Sleep disorder		Not known
	Depression ^a	Common	Not known
	Anxiety		Not known
	Delusion		Not known
	Suicidal ideation		Not known
	Suicide attempt		Not known
			Not known
Nervous system disorders	Dizziness	Uncommon	Not known
	Headache	Common	Not known
	Paraesthesia	Common	Not known

	Lethargy Somnolence Memory impairment Dysgeusia Hypoaesthesia Syncope Tremor Simple partial seizures Neuropathy peripheral Cerebrovascular accident Loss of consciousness Transient ischemic attack Paralysis Neuromyopathy Convulsion	Uncommon Uncommon Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Eye disorders	Vision blurred Eye disorder Visual impairment Amblyopia Dry eye		Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Ear and labyrinth disorders	Tinnitus Hearing impaired		Not known Not known
Cardiac disorders	Cardiac failure congestive Arrhythmia Myocardial infarction Angina pectoris Tachycardia Cardiac failure Bradycardia Sudden cardiac death Atrioventricular block	Uncommon Uncommon Uncommon Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Vascular disorders	Hot flush Lymphoedema Hypertension Thrombophlebitis Phlebitis Thrombosis Aneurysm Circulatory collapse Flushing Haematoma Hypotension Varicose vein	Very common Common Common Common Uncommon Uncommon Uncommon Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Pleural rub Pulmonary fibrosis Epistaxis Dyspnoea Haemoptysis Cough Asthma Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease Pleural effusion Lung infiltration Respiratory disorder Sinus congestion Pulmonary embolism Interstitial lung disease	Common Uncommon Common Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Gastrointestinal disorders	Constipation Nausea Vomiting Gastritis Gastrointestinal hemorrhage Abdominal distention Diarrhoea Dysphagia Dry mouth Duodenal ulcer Gastrointestinal disorder Peptic ulcer Rectal polyp	Common Common Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Hepato-biliary disorders	Hepatic function abnormal Hepatitis cholestatic Hepatocellular injury Serious liver injury Jaundice	Uncommon Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Alopecia Ecchymosis Rash Dry skin	Uncommon Uncommon Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known

	Photosensitivity reaction Urticaria Hyperhidrosis Dermatitis Hair growth abnormal Pruritus Pigmentation disorder Skin lesion	Very common Common	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Bone pain Myalgia Bone swelling Arthropathy Arthralgia Back pain Muscular weakness Pain in extremity Muscle spasms Ankylosing spondylitis Tenosynovitis	Very common Uncommon Common Common Common Common Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Renal and urinary disorders	Urinary incontinence Dysuria Pollakiuria Micturition urgency Haematuria Nocturia Urinary retention Micturition disorder Bladder spasm Urinary tract disorder Urinary tract obstruction	Uncommon Common Uncommon Common Very common Uncommon Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Reproductive system and breast disorders	Gynaecomastia Breast tenderness Erectile dysfunction Testicular atrophy Testicular pain Breast pain Testicular disorder Penile swelling Penis disorder Prostatic pain	Common Very common Very common	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
General disorders and administration site conditions	Pain Chest pain Oedema Oedema peripheral Gravitational oedema Application site oedema Mucosal dryness Asthenia Fatigue Pyrexia Injection site reaction Injection site inflammation Injection site mass Injection site pain Injection site induration Injection site abscess sterile Injection site haematoma Chills Nodule Thirst Malaise Influenza like illness Gait disturbance Inflammation Pelvic fibrosis	Common Uncommon Common Uncommon Common Uncommon Common Very common Very common Common Common Uncommon Common Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Investigations	Blood urea increased Blood uric acid increased Blood creatinine increased RBC sedimentation rate increased Blood Ca increased Blood alkaline phosphatase increased Blood LDH increased PSA increased ALT increased AST increased GGT increased ECG abnormal ECG signs of myocardial	Uncommon Common Common Common Common Common Common	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known

	ischemia Blood testosterone increased LFT abnormal Platelet count decreased Blood K decreased WBC count increased WBC count decreased PT prolonged APTT prolonged Cardiac murmur LDL increased Blood TG increased Blood bilirubin increased	Uncommon	Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known Not known
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	Fracture Spinal fracture Head injury Fall Device occlusion	Uncommon Uncommon Uncommon Uncommon	Not known
Surgical and medical procedures	Tumor excision Transurethral bladder resection Lithotripsy	Uncommon Uncommon Uncommon	

^a Depression and mood swing are commonly observed adverse reactions with long term use of GnRH agonists.

Women:

Table 2 presents ADRs and frequencies (very common ($\geq 1/10$); common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$); uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$); not known (unable to estimate frequency based upon available data) from endometriosis, uterine fibroid and breast cancer clinical studies and post-marketing experience. A blank indicates that the ADR was not seen from that particular source.

As leuporelin acetate has multiple indications, and therefore patient populations, some of these postmarketing adverse reactions may not be applicable to every patient. For a majority of these reactions, a cause and effect relationship has not been established.

Cases of serious venous and arterial thromboembolism have been reported, including deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, stroke, and transient ischemic attack.

Although a temporal relationship was reported in some cases, most cases were confounded by risk factors or concomitant medication use. It is unknown if there is a causal association between the use of GnRH agonist and these events.

Changes in Bone Density

In controlled clinical studies, patients with endometriosis (six months of therapy) or uterine fibroids (three months of therapy) were treated with leuporelin depot 3.75 mg. In endometriosis patients, vertebral bone density as measured by dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) decreased by an average of 3.2% at six months compared with the pretreatment value. For those patients who were tested at six or twelve months after discontinuation of therapy, mean bone density returned to within 2% of pretreatment. When leuporelin depot 3.75 mg was administered for three months in uterine fibroids patients, vertebral trabecular bone mineral density as assessed by quantitative digital radiography (QDR) revealed a mean decrease of 2.7% compared with baseline. Six months after discontinuation of therapy, a trend toward recovery was observed. Use of Lucrin Depot for longer than three months (uterine fibroids) or six months (endometriosis) or in the presence of other known factors for decreased bone mineral content may cause additional bone loss **and is not recommended**.

Table 2: Women Indications						
		Endo (3.75, 11.25: M86-031, M86-039, n=166)	Fibroids (3.75, 11.25: M86-034, M86-049, M86-062, M90-411, n=167)	BC (11.25: CPH-101, B02/EC 008, n=365)	Addback (3.75, 11.25: M92-878, M97-777, n=191)	Post Marketing
System organ class	Preferred Term	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency
Infections and infestations	Infection	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Not known
	Rhinitis				Uncommon	
	URTI					
	Pyelonephritis	Uncommon				
	Furuncle	Uncommon				
	UTI		Uncommon		Common	Not known
	Vulvovaginal candidiasis				Common	
	Influenza				Common	
	Pharyngitis				Common	Not known

menopausal females, estrogens are reduced to post-menopausal levels. These hormonal changes occur within a month of initiating drug therapy at recommended doses.

Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer

In patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer, clinical studies have shown benefit from the addition of agents such as the androgen axis inhibitors abiraterone acetate and enzalutamide, the taxanes docetaxel and cabazitaxel, and the radiopharmaceutical Ra-223 to GnRH agonists such as leuporelin.

Pharmacokinetics

Leuporelin acetate is not active when given orally. Bioavailability of this agent following subcutaneous administration is comparable to that after intramuscular administration.

Absorption

Following a single administration of leuporelin acetate depot suspension 3-Month (11.25 mg), a rapid increase of leuporelin acetate concentration was observed. A mean peak leuporelin plasma concentration of 21.82 (± 11.24) ng/mL was observed three hours after injection. Leuporelin acetate reached plateau levels within 7 to 14 days after injection. At week 4, a mean leuporelin plasma concentration of 0.26 (± 0.10) ng/mL was noted. It then declined to a mean leuporelin plasma concentration of 0.17 (± 0.08) ng/mL at 12 weeks.

Following a single injection of the three month formulation of leuporelin acetate depot suspension – 3 month 11.25 mg in female subjects, a mean plasma leuporelin concentration of 36.3 ng/mL was observed at 4 hours. Leuporelin appeared to be released at a constant rate following the onset of steady-state levels during the third week after dosing and mean level then declined gradually to near the lower limit of detection by 12 weeks. The mean (\pm standard deviation) leuporelin concentration from 3 to 12 weeks was 0.23 ± 0.09 ng/mL. However, intact leuporelin and an inactive major metabolite could not be distinguished by the assay which was employed in the study. The initial burst, followed by the rapid decline to a steady-state level, was similar to the release pattern seen with the monthly formulation.

Distribution

The mean steady-state volume of distribution of leuporelin following intravenous bolus administration to healthy male volunteers was 27 L. In vitro binding to human plasma proteins ranged from 43% to 49%.

Metabolism

In healthy male volunteers, a 1 mg bolus of leuporelin administered intravenously revealed that the mean systemic clearance was 7.6 L/h, with a terminal elimination half-life of approximately three hours based on a two compartment model.

Animal studies have shown ^{14}C -labeled leuporelin was metabolized into smaller inactive peptides, a pentapeptide (Metabolite I), tripeptides (Metabolites II and III) and a dipeptide (Metabolite IV). These fragments may be further metabolized.

The major metabolite (M-I) plasma concentrations measured in five prostate cancer patients given leuporelin acetate depot suspension reached a maximum concentration two to six hours after dosing and were approximately 6% of the peak parent drug concentration. One week after dosing, mean plasma M-I concentrations were approximately 20% of mean leuporelin concentrations.

Excretion

Following administration of leuporelin acetate depot for suspension 3.75 mg to three patients, less than 5% of the dose was recovered as parent and M-I metabolite in the urine over 27 days.

Special Populations

The pharmacokinetics of the drug in hepatic- and renal-impaired patients has not been determined.

PRE-CLINICAL SAFETY DATA

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

A two-year carcinogenicity study was conducted in rats and mice. In rats, a dose-related increase of benign pituitary hyperplasia and benign pituitary adenomas was noted at 24 months when the drug was administered subcutaneously at high daily doses (0.6 to 4 mg/kg/day). Also, in rat there was a significant but not a dose-related increase of pancreatic islet-cell adenomas in females and of testicular interstitial cell adenomas in males (highest incidence in the low dose group). In mice, no leuporelin acetate-induced tumors or pituitary abnormalities were observed at a dose as high as 60 mg/kg/day for two years. Patients have been treated with leuporelin acetate for up to three years with doses as high as 10 mg/day and for two years with doses as high as 20 mg/day without demonstrable pituitary abnormalities.

Mutagenicity studies have been performed with leuporelin acetate using bacterial and mammalian systems. These studies provided no evidence of a mutagenic potential.

Leuporelin acetate may reduce male and female fertility. Administration of leuporelin acetate to male and female rats at doses of 0.024, 0.24, and 2.4 mg/kg as monthly depot formulation for up to 3 months (approximately as low as 1/30 of the human dose based on body surface area using an estimated daily dose in animals and humans) caused atrophy of the reproductive organs, and suppression of reproductive function.

Clinical and pharmacologic studies in adults with leuporelin acetate and similar analogs have shown reversibility of fertility suppression when the drug is discontinued after continuous administration for periods of up to 24 weeks.

STORAGE

Store below 30°C. Do not refrigerate or freeze.

Store in the original container in order to protect from light.

Once reconstituted with the sterile diluent, the suspension should be administered immediately. However, the suspension is considered stable for up to 24 hours at 25°C. Protect from light.

HOW SUPPLIED

Leuporelin acetate for depot suspension is available in a single dose administration kit containing a pre-filled dual chamber syringe, a plunger and an alcohol wipe. The front chamber of the syringe contains sterile lyophilized microspheres, which are leuporelin acetate incorporated in a biodegradable polymer of polylactic acid and the rear chamber contains a clear and colourless diluent.

Manufactured in Japan by:

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited

CCDS03671017

Date of issue: DD MMM YYYY