Octreotide (Sandostatin® or Sandostatin LAR®)
(“ok TREE oh tide”)

How this drug is given: by injection into the muscle or under the skin

Purpose: to stop or prevent severe diarrhea and facial flushing that frequently happens with carcinoid tumors; also used to treat diarrhea caused by chemotherapy drugs that has not responded to other medications.

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

• Burning, itching, redness, or swelling at the injection site may occur. These reactions are usually mild and go away. Applying a cold pack to the area may help.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. You may have a slow or unusual heartbeat. If you feel any strange changes in your heartbeat, tell your doctor or nurse right away.

2. You may have discomfort or pain in your belly, gas, cramping, or diarrhea within the first two weeks following the injection.

3. Nausea may occur within the first month of treatment and is typically mild in nature. Medications to help you with this may be prescribed. Notify your doctor or nurse if this does not relieve your symptoms.

4. This drug may increase your chance of developing gallstones or gallbladder changes. You may also experience severe pain in the stomach or upper right section of your abdomen spreading to the back. Please call your doctor or nurse if you have severe or unusual abdominal (belly) pain, fever, nausea or vomiting after you start treatment.

5. You may get a headache. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about what you can take for this.

6. You may feel pain or weakness in your back or back muscles. If this bothers you, ask your doctor or nurse what type of drugs you may use to help with this pain.

7. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may also help you maintain your energy.
The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: