



Leuprolide (Lupron®) (*“loo-PROE-lide”*)

How drug is given: By intramuscular injection (IM)

Purpose: To lower the level of some hormones to help stop the growth of cancer cells.

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. Hot flashes and/or sweats are common as your body gets used to the drug. Caffeine, spicy food, alcohol, and stress may cause these to worsen. Mild exercise may help.
2. Your body may not be able to get rid of extra fluid. This is called edema. You may notice some swelling in your arms or legs.
3. You may notice swelling and increased tenderness of the breasts.
4. You may find a decrease in sexual desire in men and women. Speak to your cancer team about sexual health support.
5. Women may have vaginal dryness, which may cause discomfort during sex. Vaginal lubricants such as KY Jelly®, Astro Glide®, or Replens® may be helpful. Ask your cancer care team about other options if these lubricants do not work for you.
6. This drug may cause a change in your blood sugar and/or cholesterol levels. Normal levels usually return after treatment ends.
7. Men may notice a decrease in testicle size and/or difficulty maintaining an erection.
8. Occasionally men with prostate cancer experience increased bone pain and some trouble urinating, which should get better in 1-2 weeks. If you have weakness, numbness, and/or tingling in your legs or are unable to urinate, tell your cancer team.

Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

- This drug may cause thinning and weakening of bones with long-term use. This can lead to brittle bones that break or fracture more easily, like in the case of a minor fall. If you have osteoporosis or bone loss, talk with your cancer team.
- For women, your period (menstrual cycle) may not be regular for a while or may stop completely and you may not be able to get pregnant.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

The above information includes some, but necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed 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 are taking other medications. Please speak with your cancer care team 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: