



## Octreotide (Sandostatin® or Sandostatin LAR®)

("ok-TREE-oh-tide")

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**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 changes in your heartbeat, **tell your cancer care team right away.**
2. You may have discomfort or pain in your stomach, gas, cramping, or diarrhea within the first two weeks following the injection.
3. Some patients may have mild nausea within the first month of treatment. You may be given medicine to help with this. Notify your cancer care team if this does not treat your symptoms.
4. This drug may increase your chance of developing gallstones or gallbladder changes. You may experience sharp pain in the stomach or upper right section of your stomach spreading to the back. Please call your cancer care team if you have unusual stomach pain, fever, nausea or vomiting after you start treatment.
5. You may get a headache. Talk to your cancer team 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 cancer care team what type of medicine may 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 can 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 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 cancer care team about your treatment and side effects you may experience during and after treatment.*

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

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