Goserelin (GOE se rel in)
Patient Education

US Brand Names: Zoladex®
Therapeutic Category: Hormone Therapy

What is this medicine used for?
- Used to treat prostate cancer and hormone sensitive breast cancer in pre and perimenopausal women.

How does it work?
- This medicine decreases hormone production in your body. Decreasing hormones that stimulate the growth of cancer cells reduces the risk of cancer cells growing.

What should my doctor or nurse know before I take this medication?
- If you are allergic to any medicines.
- If you are taking other over the counter or prescription medicines, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- If you are, or may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.
- If you have heart disease.
- If you have diabetes (High blood sugar level).

How is this drug given?
Goserelin is an implant injected under your skin into fat tissue. Ask your doctor or nurse how often you will be getting this medication.

What are the general precautions when taking this medicine?
- Talk with your doctor or nurse before taking aspirin, aspirin-containing products, over the counter or prescription medications including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- If you or your partner can get pregnant, use birth control during your treatment.
- Once completing treatment, discuss the timing for discontinuing birth control measures with your provider (pt. teaching sheet fertility).

What are the common side effects of this medicine?

Men:
- Acne.
Headache.
Mood swings, depression.
Hot flashes, sweating.
Decreased libido (loss of interest in sex).
Sexual dysfunction (trouble getting or sustaining an erection).
Loss of calcium from bone with increased risk of bone fracture.

*Not common, but may happen: Men may have a “tumor flare” or worsening of symptoms, including bone pain, numbness and tingling in hands and feet, blood in the urine, or an obstruction decreasing your ability to urinate during the first 2 weeks.

**Women:**

- Acne.
- Headache.
- Mood swings, depression.
- Hot flashes, sweating.
- Decreased libido (loss of interest in sex).
- Vaginal irritation and dryness.
- No menstrual periods (amenorrhea). This is not an effective form of birth control.
- Loss of calcium from bone with increased risk of bone fracture.

**Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:**

- Nausea, constipation, or increase in thirst and urination.
- Chest pain.
- New or increase in an old pain.

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