

Leuprolide

Names	The generic drug name is leuprolide (loo-PROE-lide). Lupron® Depot®, Eligard®, and Viadur® are brand names. There may be other be names for this medication.
How is it Given?	Lupron Depot® is injected into muscle (intramuscular or IM injection). Eligard is injected under the skin (subcutaneous/SQ - Eligard®). Viradur® is an implantable device.
Why am I Taking Leuprolide?	This drug is used to treat prostate cancer in men and ovarian, breast, and endometrial cancer in women.
How Does it Work?	<p>Leuprolide is a synthetic (man-made) hormone that belongs to a class of medications called LHRH (luteinizing hormone releasing hormone) agonists. It works by telling the pituitary gland, located in the brain, to stop producing luteinizing hormone (LH).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In men, LH stimulates the production of testosterone, a male hormone that can encourage some prostate cancers to grow. Leuprolide stops the production of testosterone.• In women, LH stimulates the production of estrodial (estrogen), which can encourage some breast, ovarian, and endometrial cancers to grow. Leuprolide decreases estrogen production to postmenopausal levels.
What Should I Tell my Doctor Before I Begin Leuprolide?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have had an allergic reaction to leuprolide, or similar medications (goserelin/Zoladex® or nafarelin/Synarel®)• have a family history of osteoporosis (fragile/weakened bones)• have a long history of drinking alcohol or using tobacco products• have, or have ever had depression, diabetes, urinary obstruction, blood in your urine, heart disease, cancer that spread to the spine, diabetes, or a low level of potassium, calcium, or magnesium in your blood <p>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and supplements that you are taking.</p>

What are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Hot flashes, flushing, and/or excessive sweating
- Loss of sexual ability and/or loss of interest in sex
- Increased bone pain or urinary retention due to disease "flare" during the first few weeks of treatment
- Breast pain or swelling
- A bump or discomfort at injection site
- Swelling or puffiness in feet or ankles (edema), weight change
- Feeling weak (loss of strength); muscle or joint pain
- Depression, mood changes
- Acne, skin rash, photosensitivity (sensitivity to the sun – burn easily)
- Women: Vaginal discharge, dryness, itching; spotting (light vaginal bleeding)
- Men: Decrease in the size of the testicles and/or pain in the testicles

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Dressing in layers, using a cool washcloth around your neck, or using of a person-size fan (or a fan that sprays a light mist) may help.
- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent/lessen discomfort.
- If you develop a rash, do not put anything on it unless you first ask your doctor or nurse. Keep the area clean and dry.
- Use sunscreen with SPF of 30 or higher. Wear hat, sunglasses, and protective clothing if out in the sun, even for a short time. Avoid long exposures to sunlight – even with sunscreen on.
- Talk to your doctor if you have moodiness or depression.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- numbness, tingling, weakness, or pain in the feet or lower legs
- painful or difficult urination, or blood in your urine
- extreme thirst
- sudden headache
- vision changes

Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have life-threatening symptoms such as:

- signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling/ tingling in your face, tongue, mouth, or throat; chest tightness; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness, shortness of breath; or heart palpitations
- signs of heart attack: Pain in chest pain, jaw, neck, back, or arm; shortness of breath, sweating; nausea
- signs of stroke: Sudden numbness or weakness on one side of the body; sudden trouble with walking, balance, seeing, speaking, or coordination)

Please let us know if you go to the ER or are admitted to the hospital.

What Else Should I
Know About
Leuprolide?

- Leuprolide may cause an increase in certain hormones in the first few weeks after the injection, which may temporarily worsen symptoms. Your doctor will monitor you during this period. These problems should get better after the first few weeks.
- Leuprolide is not to be used in women who are pregnant, can become pregnant, or who are breast-feeding.
- Do not get pregnant or father a child while taking leuprolide. Barrier methods of contraception, such as condoms, are recommended.
- This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid driving or using machinery until you know how the medicine will affect you.
- Be sure to keep all your appointments with your doctor and lab.
- Leuprolide may cause a decrease in your bone density and increase your risk of bone fracture. Talk to your doctor about your risks.
- Leuprolide may raise your blood cholesterol level.
- If you have the leuprolide implant, it will show up on x-rays and CT scans. If you are going to have either of these scans, or an MRI, tell them about your implant.
- Talk to your doctor for more information about leuprolide.