

Octreotide

Names	The generic drug name is octreotide (ok-TREE-oh-tide). Sandostatin® and Sandostatin LAR® (long-acting version) are brand names. There may be other names for this medication.
How is it Given?	Your medicine will be is given as am injection just under your skin (subcutaneous/SQ), into a vein (intravenous/IV), or into a muscle (intramuscular/IM).
Why am I Taking Octreotide?	Octreotide is used to control symptoms such as diarrhea or flushing in people who have certain tumors such as carcinoid, pancreatic islet cell tumors, gastrinoma, or vasoactive intestinal peptide-secreting tumors (VIPomas). If a drug has been approved for one use, physicians may prescribe it for another condition if they think it may help.
How Does it Work?	Octreotide is a synthetic version of a hormone (somastatin) that your body makes. The synthetic version is used be because its effects last longer.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Octreotide?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have had an allergic reaction to octreotide• have or have ever had diabetes, heart, liver, or kidney disease• are pregnant or breastfeeding <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, or supplements that you are taking.</p>
What Are Some Possible Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constipation; pale, bulky, foul-smelling stools; a constant feeling you need to empty your bowels. Gallstones (with long term use)• Gas, stomach pain, heartburn, and/or nausea• Headache, dizziness, tiredness• Back, muscle or joint pain (flu-like symptoms)• Nosebleeds• Hair loss• Pain or stinging at the injection site (lasting about 15 minutes)

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea, diarrhea, and other digestive problems.
- Avoid driving or engaging in tasks that require alertness until you know how you will respond to the medication.
- If you get flu-like symptoms, keep warm and drink plenty of liquids.
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) may help relieve discomfort from fever, headache, or achiness. Do not take aspirin, or products containing aspirin unless your have your doctor's permission. Be sure to talk with your doctor before taking any medication.
- Drink 2-3 three quarts of fluid (especially water) every day, unless you are instructed otherwise.
- If you have diabetes, monitor your blood sugar closely and follow your doctor's recommendations regarding medications and diet

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- any sign of an allergic reaction: Itching, hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing, dizziness, or palpitations
- any sign of infection: Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness along a vein, at an IV site, or at any other wound or skin irritation
- increased urination or thirst
- severe pain in the upper or upper right abdomen (especially if spreading to the side or back) or severe stomach pain

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- nausea, constipation, or diarrhea not relieved by prescribed medication or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- yellowing of the skin or eyes
- diarrhea (4-6 times in a day) or constipation for 2 days or longer

What Else Should I Know About Octreotide?

- If you are being treated for a carcinoid tumor or VIPoma, your symptoms may occasionally get worse during treatment. If this happens, your doctor may tell you to use the immediate-release injection for a few days.
- If you have diabetes, octreotide may affect your blood sugar levels. Talk to the doctor that manages your diabetes.
- This drug may make you drowsy. Do not drive a car or operate machinery until you know how this drug affects you. Alcohol can worsen sleepiness.
- Do not become pregnant while take octreotide.
- If you would like more information about octreotide, talk to your doctor.