



Patient Education

Leuprolide (loo-PROE-lide)

Names	Leuprolide is the generic drug name. Lupron® Depot (injection) and Viadur® (implant) are brand names. (There may be other be names for this medication.)
How is it Given?	This medication is given by injection into the muscle (intramuscular/IM - Lupron Depot) or under the skin (subcutaneous/SQ - Eligard). It is also available as an implantable device (Viradur).
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. This type of medication works by telling the pituitary gland, located in the brain, to stop producing luteinizing hormone.</p> <p>In men, luteinizing hormone stimulates the production of testosterone, a male hormone. Male hormones, or androgens, that normally circulate throughout a man's body can encourage some types of prostate cancers to grow. Leuprolide stops the production of testosterone.</p> <p>In women, luteinizing hormone stimulates the production of estradiol (estrogen), which can encourage some breast, ovarian, and endometrial cancers to grow. Leuprolide decreases the production of estradiol to levels similar to a postmenopausal state.</p>
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 history of drinking alcohol or using tobacco products for a long period of time• have, or have ever had depression, diabetes, urinary obstruction, blood in your urine, heart disease, or a low level of

potassium, calcium, or magnesium in your blood

This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.

What Are Some Possible Side Effects I May Experience?

- 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)
- Depression, mood changes
- Muscle or joint pain
- Acne or skin rash
- Women: vaginal discharge, dryness or itching; spotting (light vaginal bleeding)
- Men: Decrease in the size of the testicles 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 with the hot flashes.
- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen discomfort or pain.
- 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.
- Talk to your doctor if you have moodiness or depression.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call your doctor immediately if you experience:

- any sign of an allergic reaction: itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing, dizziness, or palpitations
- 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

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.
- Avoid unnecessary or prolonged exposure to sunlight. Wear protective clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen with SPF 30+.
- Leuprolide is not to be used in women who are pregnant, can become pregnant, or 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.