



Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust: Information for Families

# Octreotide injections

This information sheet should be read in conjunction with any patient information leaflet provided by the manufacturer.

**This information describes octreotide injections, how they are given and some of its side effects. Each person reacts different to medicines so your child will not necessarily suffer every side effect mentioned. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist or telephone one of the contact numbers on the information sheet.**

## What is octreotide?

Octreotide is used to treat persistently low blood sugar levels (hypoglycaemia) caused by the body producing too much insulin (hyperinsulinism). It is a manmade version of the natural hormone, somatostatin, which stops certain cells in the pancreas releasing insulin. It can be used alone or together with the medicines diazoxide and chlorothiazide as directed by your child's doctor.

The use of octreotide in children is not currently licensed in the UK. Medicines are often used outside of their license (off-label) in children because trial data is not available for a specific use. This is not necessarily hazardous but should be explained and agreed before use. Your doctor will explain this further to you.

Octreotide for injection is available as different strengths, which can be injected under the skin (subcutaneously). At GOSH, we use a multi-dose vial, which can be used for up to 10 injections. The strength of this injection solution is 1mg of active ingredient in 5ml of liquid. The solution also contains water and preservatives.

## How is it given?

Octreotide is given as a subcutaneous injection, three to four times a day. The dose should be calculated in millilitres, drawn up from the multi-dose vial and given using a BD insulin syringe. You will have been taught how to give subcutaneous injections before leaving hospital but please read our information sheet available on our website at [http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/gosh\\_families/information\\_sheets/medicines\\_subcutaneous\\_injections/medicines\\_subcutaneous\\_injections\\_families.html](http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/gosh_families/information_sheets/medicines_subcutaneous_injections/medicines_subcutaneous_injections_families.html)

## Who should not use octreotide injections?

People with the following conditions should discuss taking these medicines with their doctor.

- Hypersensitivity to octreotide or any of its ingredients
- Pregnant, could be pregnant, trying to become pregnant or breastfeeding

## What are the side effects?

If any of these side effects are severe or carry on for a long time, please tell your doctor.

- Skin reactions affecting the injection site
- Loss of appetite, sickness, tummy pain, bloating and/or diarrhoea
- Gall bladder or liver problems, possibly showing as yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes
- Hair loss

## Interactions with other medicines

Some medicines can react with octreotide, altering how well they work. Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving your child any other medicines, including herbal or complementary medicines. The following are known to react with octreotide.

- Ciclosporin
- Anti-diabetic medicines such as insulin or metformin
- Anti-reflux medicines, particularly cimetidine

## Important information

- Keep medicines in a safe place where children cannot reach them
- Keep the injection ampoules in the fridge in their original packaging. They should be taken out of the fridge and kept at room temperature for giving the injections. They will keep at room temperature for up to two weeks.
- If you are using the multi-dose vial, you should also keep this in the fridge. Once in use the vials can be kept at room temperature for up to two weeks. Do not use this vial more than 10 times.
- If you forget to give your child a dose and it is within a few hours of when the dose was due, give it as soon as you remember. Otherwise, monitor your child's blood glucose levels and ask advice from the team.
- If your doctor decides that your child should stop having these injections or they pass the expiry date, return any remaining vials or ampoules to your pharmacist. Do not flush them down the toilet or throw them away.

## Useful number

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| <b>GOSH switchboard:</b>                        | <b>020 7405 9200</b>          |
| <b>Pharmacy Medicines Information:</b>          | <b>020 7829 8608</b>          |
| <b>Endocrinology Clinical Nurse Specialist:</b> | <b>ext 0360 or bleep 1016</b> |