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## Drug Information: Octreotide Injection

URL of this page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/medmaster/a693049.html>

(ok tree' oh tide)

### About your treatment

Your doctor has ordered octreotide to help control diarrhea and other symptoms of abdominal illness and other medical conditions such as intestinal tumors. Octreotide will be either injected subcutaneously (beneath the skin) or added to an intravenous fluid that will drip through a needle or catheter placed in your vein for 15–30 minutes, one to four times a day. This medication is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

Your health care provider (doctor, nurse, or pharmacist) may measure the effectiveness and side effects of your treatment using laboratory tests and physical examinations. It is important to keep all appointments with your doctor and the laboratory. The length of treatment depends on how you respond to the medication.

### Precautions

Before administering octreotide,

- tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to octreotide or any other drugs.
- tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription medications you are taking, especially antidiarrheals, cyclosporine (Neoral, Sandimmune), medications for diabetes or high blood pressure, and vitamins.
- tell your doctor if you have or have ever had diabetes or kidney or gallbladder disease.
- tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding. If you become pregnant while taking octreotide, call your doctor.
- you should know that this drug may make you drowsy. Do not drive a car or operate machinery until you know how this drug affects you.
- remember that alcohol can add to the drowsiness caused by this drug.

### Administering your medication

Before you administer octreotide, look at the solution closely. It should be clear and free of floating material. Gently squeeze the bag or observe the solution container to make sure there are no leaks. Do not use the solution if it is discolored, if it contains particles, or if the bag or container leaks. Use a new solution, but show the damaged one to your health care provider.

It is important that you use your medication exactly as directed. Do not change your dosing schedule without

talking to your health care provider. Your health care provider may tell you to stop your infusion if you have a mechanical problem (such as a blockage in the tubing, needle, or catheter); if you have to stop an infusion, call your health care provider immediately so your therapy can continue.

## Side effects

Octreotide may cause side effects. Pain or burning at the injection site may last for up to 15 minutes. Tell your health care provider if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- upset stomach
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- stomach pain
- bloating
- flatulence
- loose stools
- loss of appetite or increased hunger

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your health care provider immediately:

- increased urination
- increased thirst
- difficulty breathing
- chills
- shakiness
- sweating
- weakness

## Storing your medication

- Your health care provider probably will give you a several-day supply of octreotide at a time. You will be told to store it in the refrigerator.
- Take your next dose from the refrigerator 1 hour before using it; place it in a clean, dry area to allow it to warm to room temperature.

Store your medication only as directed. Make sure you understand what you need to store your medication properly.

Keep your supplies in a clean, dry place when you are not using them, and keep all medications and supplies out of reach of children. Your health care provider will tell you how to throw away used needles, syringes, tubing, and containers to avoid accidental injury.

## In case of emergency/overdose

In case of overdose, call your local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. If the victim has collapsed or is not breathing, call local emergency services at 911.

## Signs of infection

If you are receiving octreotide in your vein or under your skin, you need to know the symptoms of a catheter-related infection (an infection where the needle enters your vein or skin). If you experience any of these

effects near your intravenous catheter, tell your health care provider as soon as possible:

- tenderness
- warmth
- irritation
- drainage
- redness
- swelling
- pain

**Brand name(s):**

- Sandostatin LAR® Depot
- Sandostatin®

Last Revised – 04/01/2003



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