

Octreotide acetate (Sandostatin)

About This Drug

Octreotide acetate is used to treat cancer, diarrhea associated with some types of cancer, and acromegaly (a hormonal disorder). It is given in the vein (IV) or as an injection under the skin (subcutaneously).

Possible Side Effects

- Decrease in heart rate
- Nausea
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Excess gas
- Feeling dizzy
- Headache
- Pain at the injection site

Note: Your side effects may be different depending on your specific condition. Not all possible side effects are included above.

Warnings and Precautions

- Changes in your gallbladder function, which can cause gallstones, and inflammation of the gallbladder and/or pancreas. Possible signs are nausea/vomiting, fever, tenderness in the right side of the abdomen.
- Blood sugar levels may change
- Changes in your thyroid function
- Changes in your heart function such as abnormal heartbeat and electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG)

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

How to Take Your Medication



- Talk to your doctor, nurse and/or pharmacist for proper preparation, dosing and administration if you are self-injecting.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the refrigerator, between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). Do not freeze. Protect from light by storing in outer carton. Discuss with your nurse or your doctor how to dispose of unused medicine/needles.

Treating Side Effects

- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- If you are dizzy, get up slowly after sitting or lying.
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid). Eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.
- Avoid gas-producing foods, such as brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, prunes, and apricots.
- If you have diabetes, keep good control of your blood sugar level. Tell your nurse or your doctor if your glucose levels are higher or lower than normal.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.

Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of octreotide acetate with food.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known drug interactions with octreotide acetate. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Headache that does not go away
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way (palpitations)



- Trouble breathing
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- Pain in the right side of your abdomen or that spreads to your back
- Excessive gas or pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Pain at the injection site
- Abnormal blood sugar
- Signs of high blood sugar: unusual thirst, passing urine often, headache, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- Signs of low blood sugar: feeling sleepy, increased hunger, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- Unexplained weight gain
- If you think you may be pregnant

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** It is not known if this drug may harm an unborn child. In patients with acromegaly who have been unable to become pregnant, octreotide may improve fertility. For this reason, women of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your treatment and be sure to talk with your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant while receiving this drug. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this drug passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should talk to their doctor about the risks and benefits of breastfeeding during treatment with this drug because this drug may enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this drug. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

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