

Decapeptyl

Cornwall Endometriosis Centre



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What is Decapeptyl?

Decapeptyl belongs to a group of medicines called Gonadotrophin Releasing Hormones (GnRH) analogues. These drugs are used to bring on a temporary, reversible menopause by 'switching off' your ovaries and stopping them producing hormones.

Why do I need it?

Decapeptyl can be used for any of the following reasons:

- to suppress or reduce the symptoms of conditions such as endometriosis and adenomyosis
- if you are having surgery to remove endometriosis, you may be given Decapeptyl three months prior to surgery to reduce the inflammation caused by the endometriosis and help shrink it to make the surgery easier and safer to perform
- to shrink fibroids
- to control problematic vaginal bleeding
- to address hormone-related issues.

How is it given?

It is given as an injection into a muscle (usually your bottom) by a nurse, either at your GP practice, the outpatient clinic or on the gynaecology ward at the hospital. It is usually given as a three-monthly dose.

What can I expect afterwards?

After Decapeptyl is administered it will stimulate your ovarian hormones in the first week or two and then 'switch off' your ovaries, so a reversible menopause occurs. You may feel your endometriosis pain is lessened, or gone, when the menopause phase happens.

What are the possible side effects?

You may not experience any unwanted effects, but possible reported side effects include:

- hot flushes
- feeling sick

- difficulty in sleeping
- headaches
- mood swings
- night sweats
- vaginal dryness
- weight changes
- reduced sex drive
- visual disturbances
- soreness around the injection site.

Is Decapeptyl suitable for everyone?

No, you should not have Decapeptyl if you:

- are pregnant or trying to become pregnant
- have previously had an allergic reaction to this type of medicine
- are breast feeding
- have a history of osteoporosis (thinning of the bones)
- have any unexplained vaginal bleeding.

Will I still need to use contraception?

Your periods usually stop within a couple of months. However, this medication on its own should not be relied on as a form of contraception. Whilst you are unlikely to conceive we advise that you use non-hormonal methods of contraception, such as barrier methods.

Can I still take other medication?

It's important to tell your doctor or pharmacist if you're already taking any medicines, including those bought without a prescription and herbal medicines, before you start having Decapeptyl injections.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact: rcht-ogmedsec@nhs.net