

Supplementary medicines information for palliative care patients

All medicines are supplied with a manufacturer's 'Patient Information Leaflet'. This can provide a great deal of information about the medicine, its normal uses and side effects. However, most medicines have more than one effect on the body and for many years, palliative care (hospice) doctors have found that certain medicines are safe and effective for the treatment of symptoms **other** than those specified by the medicine's manufacturer and there is now plenty of experience to confirm such use.

We are providing you with this extra information to inform you of the reason(s) why you are taking this medicine and to highlight any other information. This should be read in conjunction with the **attached** manufacturer's patient information leaflet.

Octreotide

In palliative care, octreotide is sometimes prescribed for the treatment of severe diarrhoea or the reduction of excess fluid in the bowel mainly when this is due to an obstruction.

Frequently asked questions

Q. What form(s) of this medicine are there and how is it usually taken?

- Octreotide is available only as an injection.
- The total daily dose of between 50 and 1,500 micrograms is usually injected under the skin, divided into two or three daily doses or over 24 hours using a syringe driver (subcutaneous pump).

NB Always follow the dose indicated on the label or advised by a healthcare professional.

Q. What are the most common side effects?

- You may experience pain at the site of injection.
- You may also suffer from flatulence (wind) and a dry mouth.

Q. What are the main special instructions and precautions?

- Store injections in a refrigerator but allow them to reach room temperature before administration to help reduce pain at the injection site.

Further information

If you have any questions about any of the medicines you have been prescribed or have any problems with side effects, please speak to one of the following:

St Catherine's Hospice

Telephone: 01293 447333

St Catherine's Hospice Pharmacist

Telephone: 01293 535000