

## FOR THE PATIENT: Medroxyprogesterone Injection

Other names: DEPO-PROVERA®

- **Medroxyprogesterone** (meh-DROX-ee-proe-JESS-ter-own) is a drug that is used to treat some kinds of cancer. It is a progestin type of female hormone. Medroxyprogesterone is a milky liquid that is injected into a muscle.
- Other drugs such as aminoglutethimide or rifampin may **interact** with medroxyprogesterone. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) will not affect the safety or usefulness of medroxyprogesterone.
- For women: Medroxyprogesterone may cause **menopause** in women which may be permanent. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with medroxyprogesterone.
- For women: Medroxyprogesterone may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. Ask your doctor if your dose of medroxyprogesterone will act as **birth control** or if you need to use another form of birth control. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.
- **Tell** doctors or dentists that you are being treated with medroxyprogesterone before you receive any treatment from them.

| SIDE EFFECTS  | MANAGEMENT  |
|---|---|
| <b>Pain or tenderness</b> may occur where the needle was placed.  | ·Apply warm compresses or soak in warm water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.   |
| <b>Swelling</b> of hands, feet or lower legs occur if your body retains extra fluid.  | ·Elevate your feet when sitting.<br>·Avoid tight clothing.  |
| <b>Blood clots</b> can sometimes occur. This is more likely to happen if you have had blood clots before. Signs to watch for include tenderness or hardness over a vein; calf tenderness; sudden onset of cough, chest pain or shortness of breath. | To help prevent blood clots:<br>·Keep active.<br>·Drink plenty of fluids.<br>·Avoid tight clothing.<br>·Do not sit with your legs crossed at the knees. |
| <b>Breast swelling</b> , soreness and/or leaking from the nipple may occur.   | This will return to normal when you stop taking medroxyprogesterone.  |
| You may <b>gain or lose weight</b> due to a change in appetite. Weight gain is more common.   | Your appetite will return to normal when you stop taking medroxyprogesterone.   |

| SIDE EFFECTS  | MANAGEMENT   |
|---|--|
| <b>Sugar control</b> may be affected in diabetics.  | ·Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.                                     |
| Your <b>skin may darken</b> in some areas.  | This will slowly return to normal once you stop treatment with medroxyprogesterone.        |
| <b>Nausea</b> rarely occurs with medroxyprogesterone.   | Nausea should go away as treatment continues.  |
| <b>Hair loss</b> rarely occurs with medroxyprogesterone. Your hair will grow back once you stop treatment. Colour and texture may change. | ·Use a gentle baby shampoo and soft brush.<br>·Avoid hair spray, bleaches, dyes and perms. |

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of: severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
- Signs of a **blood clot** such as tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain or shortness of breath.

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin.
- Changes in vaginal bleeding.
- Severe mental depression.
- Rapid weight gain greater than 5 pounds.

**CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:**

- For diabetics: uncontrolled blood sugars.
- Excessive breast swelling or soreness.
- Swelling of hands, feet or lower legs.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores where the needle was placed.

**REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR.**

See ***Chemotherapy and You: a Guide to Self-help During Treatment*** available free from the Canadian Cancer Society for more information on managing side effects.

Notes: