



**BC Cancer Agency**

CARE + RESEARCH

*An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority*

## **For the Patient: UGIOCTLAR**

Symptomatic management of functional carcinoid and neuroendocrine tumours of the GI tract using Octreotide (SANDOSTATIN® LAR)

**GI** = GastroIntestinal

**OCT** = Octreotide

**LAR** = Long Acting Release

### **ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**

#### **What is this drug used for?**

- Octreotide is a hormone drug that is used to treat tumours of the GI tract that grow from the neuroendocrine cells. Neuroendocrine cells are cells in your body that produce hormones after stimulation from the nervous system.

#### **How does this drug work?**

- Octreotide works by mimicking a naturally occurring hormone in your body and helps manage the symptoms of your cancer, such as reducing diarrhea, flushing and wheezing.

### **INTENDED BENEFITS**

- You are being asked to take octreotide as a treatment to manage the symptoms of your cancer.

### **TREATMENT SUMMARY**

#### **How is this drugs given?**

- Octreotide is given as an **injection** into the muscle. It is usually given once every 4 weeks, or once a month, as this is a long acting release (LAR) form of octreotide.
- Your doctor may start you on a short acting form of octreotide that is given as a daily injection under the skin. You may be on this daily injection for a period of time before switching to the long acting form.
- The first injection is usually given to you at the cancer clinic by a nurse. Please ask your nurse where your following injections are to be given. Many people have their injections given to them by their family doctor or a home care nurse, but some people come back to the cancer clinic. Please pick up additional injections from either the cancer clinic or community hospital pharmacy before receiving your injection.
- Please stay on schedule for your injections. It will not do any harm if a dose is a few days late, but your symptoms may reappear until you are back on schedule.

**The calendar on the following page outlines your overall treatment plan.**

C Y C L E	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		▶ Week 1 → Octreotide (SANDOSTATIN® LAR) injection on Day 1
		▶ Week 2 → no treatment
	1	▶ Week 3 → no treatment
		▶ Week 4 → no treatment

C Y C L E	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		▶ Week 1 → Octreotide (SANDOSTATIN® LAR) injection on Day 1
		▶ Week 2 → no treatment
	2	▶ Week 3 → no treatment
		▶ Week 4 → no treatment

Treatment is continued as long as you are benefitting from treatment and not having too many side effects, as determined by your oncologist.

#### What will happen when I get my drugs?

- A **blood test** may be taken from time to time. The dose and timing of your octreotide may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.

#### Side Effects

- The doctor will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting treatment.
- The pharmacist will review how to take the treatment and possible side effects with you on the day you first pick up your medication.
- Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. Please refer to the patient information handout titled **“For the Patient: Octreotide”** for a complete list of possible side effects and their management.

#### Medication Interactions

- Some drugs such as bromocriptine (e.g. PARLODEL®), cimetidine (e.g. TAGAMET®), cycloprine (NEORAL®), insulin, and some heart medications (e.g. beta blockers) may **interact** with octreotide. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as you may need extra blood test or your dose may need to be changed. If you are diabetic, your doctor may need to adjust your antidiabetic treatment. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.

**If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact:**

\_\_\_\_\_ at telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_