



For the Patient: Buserelin injection
Other names: SUPREFACT®, SUPREFACT® DEPOT

BC Cancer Agency

- **Buserelin** (byoo-SAIR-ell-in) is a drug that is used to treat prostate cancer, breast cancer, and other cancers. In men, buserelin decreases testosterone (a male sex hormone). In women, buserelin decreases estrogen and progesterone (female sex hormones). Buserelin usually consists of two small rods (2-month injection), or 3 small rods (3-month injection) that are injected under the skin of the abdomen.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to buserelin, goserelin, or leuprolide, before taking buserelin.
- It is important to **use** buserelin exactly as directed by your doctor. Try to adhere to the schedule recommended by your doctor. If your scheduled dose is changed by a few days, the medication will still be effective.
- Other drugs may **interact** with buserelin. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of buserelin.
- Buserelin may cause **sterility** in men and **menopause** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with buserelin.
- Buserelin may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with buserelin. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Store** the injection in the original packaging, out of the reach of children, at room temperature, and away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** doctors or dentists that you are being treated with buserelin before you receive any treatment from them.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.
Nausea does not usually occur with buserelin.	
Increased bone pain may occur for the first 1-2 weeks if your cancer has spread to your bones.	The pain should improve as your body adjusts to buserelin. You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.
Hot flashes (sudden sweating and feelings of warmth) may sometimes occur.	If hot flashes are troublesome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people find it helpful to avoid alcohol, spicy food, and caffeine (coffee, tea, colas, chocolate). • Follow a regular exercise program. • Try staying in a cool environment. • Wear layers so that if you do experience a hot flash, the outer layers may be removed. • Ask your doctor for more advice if your hot flashes continue to bother you. There may be medications available.
Tiredness and lack of energy may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • Try the ideas in <i>Your Bank of Energy Savings: How People with Cancer Can Handle Fatigue</i>.*
Impotence (loss of sexual ability) may commonly occur.	Sexual ability may return when you stop taking buserelin.
Decreased libido (loss of sexual desire) may commonly occur.	Sexual desire may return when you stop taking buserelin.
Headache may occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
Weight changes may occur. A small amount of weight gain may occur.	To maintain your weight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep active. • Modify your diet as necessary.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Sugar control may be affected in diabetics. Some people may be at risk for developing problems with blood sugar over time.	Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic. Talk to your doctor if you feel an unusual degree of thirst and experience frequent urination, as these can be signs of high blood sugar.
Hair loss is rare with buserelin. If you lose hair, it will usually grow back once you stop treatment with buserelin. Colour and texture may change.	If hair loss is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. • Care should be taken with use of hair spray, bleaches, dyes, and perms.
Increase in cholesterol or triglycerides may rarely occur.	Discuss this with your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A history of heart disease, high blood pressure, or elevated triglycerides. • You may need to have your cholesterol and triglyceride levels checked a few months after starting buserelin.
Bone loss happens gradually and normally with age, but may happen more quickly with this medication. Over time, your risk of breaking a bone may be higher.	Refer to <i>Patient Guidelines for the Prevention of Osteoporosis in Women</i> * or <i>Guidelines for the Prevention of Osteoporosis for Men with Prostate Cancer on Hormone Therapy</i> .*

***Please ask your chemotherapy nurse or pharmacist for a copy.**

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

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, swelling of ankles, or fainting.
- For men: **Signs of a sudden increase** in the size of the cancer in your prostate such as blood in urine, problems passing urine, sudden back or trunk pain, or weakness in your legs, especially during the first month of the treatment. This is also called a flare reaction.

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

- **Changes in eyesight.**
- Ringing in your ears or **hearing problems.**
- For women: Ongoing **menstrual flow** that occurs **after** three to four months of treatment.

