

Leuprolide (Lupron®)

Leuprolide is a hormone that lowers the level of testosterone (men) and estrogen (women) in your body and may slow the growth of cancer cells. It is used to treat prostate cancer, endometriosis and breast cancer.

How Is It Given?

- by muscle injection (intramuscular injection)
- by injection just under the skin (subcutaneous injection)

When Is It Given?

Depending on your treatment, you may have this medicine once a day, once a month, once every 3 months, once every 4 months or once every 6 months.

What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

Common:

- hot flashes (in men and women)
- bone pain or tumor pain (for a couple of weeks after starting treatment)
- headache
- loss of menstrual period (in women)
- loss of sexual ability or desire.

Less common:

- breast pain or increased breast size (in men and women)
- vaginal itching or dryness
- pain at the injection site
- swelling of feet or ankles
- mood changes.

Rare:

- congestive heart failure
- blood clots.

Special Notes

- You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine. Tell your doctor right away if you think you are pregnant or if you are planning to become pregnant.
- Use an effective form of birth control while you are using the medicine for at least 4 months after your last treatment.

Some forms of birth control (pills, implants, shots or patches) may not work while you are on leuprolide.

Other forms of birth control (condoms, a diaphragm or contraceptive foam or jelly) should be used with your regular birth control to keep you from getting pregnant.

- If you are a female:
 - You should not breastfeed while taking this medicine.
 - You will stop having menstrual periods. You can still become pregnant even though you are not having your period. Be sure to use two forms of birth control. Your periods should return to normal after you stop using this medicine.
- Leuprolide may make your bones weaker than normal. This increases your risk of breaking or fracturing a bone. Your doctor will check your bone strength during your treatment. You may need to take calcium supplements.