

# Octreotide (Sandostatin) Subcutaneous (sub-Q) Injection

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## What is Octreotide?

Octreotide, is a hormone medicine used to treat acromegaly and the symptoms of carcinoid syndrome. There are 2 types of Octreotide: a short-acting medicine (sub-Q Octreotide) and a long-acting medicine (Sandostatin LAR). The short-acting medicine is given by subcutaneous injection (sub-Q shot) into the fat layer under the skin. The long-acting medicine is given as an intramuscular injection (IM shot) into the muscle.

## Why do I need this medicine?

Carcinoid syndrome is a group of symptoms that can happen when you have a carcinoid tumor. Common symptoms include diarrhea and flushing of your skin. Your doctor may order Octreotide to help control your symptoms. Short-acting sub-Q Octreotide is often given first to check how well you respond to the medicine. The amount (dose) of medicine you take will depend on your symptoms. After you are able to take the sub-Q Octreotide, your doctor may order Sandostatin LAR to help control symptoms and reduce the number of sub-Q shots you need each day. You may also need to use the sub-Q medicine if your symptoms are not well controlled with the Sandostatin LAR.

## How do I handle and store sub-Q Octreotide?

- Store unopened vials of this medicine in your refrigerator, away from direct light.
- Keep a bag of pre-filled syringes in a brown paper bag in your refrigerator. It is helpful to have the medicine ready if you need it quickly.

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**This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.**

- The vials of this medicine can be stored at room temperature for up to 14 days. **Do not use this medicine if it has been stored at room temperature for more than 14 days.**
- The pens of this medicine can be stored at room temperature for up to 28 days. **Do not use this medicine if it has been stored at room temperature for more than 28 days.**
- Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about how to get rid of prescription medicines safely.
- You may take the pre-filled syringes with you when you travel away from home. It is important to store these syringes in a hard cooler or hard toothbrush holder.
- Before you give the shot, warm the syringe in your hand until the medicine is at room temperature. You can also place the syringe outside your refrigerator for 30 minutes to warm up. If the medicine is cold, it may cause discomfort or pain when injected.

### How do I take Octreotide Sub-Q?

- You will be taught how to give this medicine as a sub-Q shot.
- The shot may be given up to 3 times a day. Your doctor will tell you the dose and how often to take the medicine.

**Do not give the sub-Q Octreotide 30 minutes to 1 hour before or after a meal. It may cause nausea with vomiting if your stomach is full.**

### What are the common side effects?

Common side effects may include:

- Stomach upset (constipation, diarrhea, cramps or gas)
- Fatigue
- Blood sugar level changes (low or high)
- Tenderness or soreness at the injection site
- Gall bladder problems (pain in upper right stomach area, yellow skin or eyes or bloating)

## **When should I call the doctor?**

**Call 911 and get emergency help if you have any of the following:**

- Shortness of Breath
- Chest Pain
- Abnormal heartbeat

**Call your doctor right away** if you have chills or a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher.

## **What if I need help paying for my medicine?**

Talk to your doctor or nurse about any assistance you may need to help cover the cost of this medicine. Your health care team can help you find resources for this medicine.