

## OCTREOTIDE (short-acting injection)

*ock-tree-oh-tide*

### What does it do?

*Octreotide* is used to treat acromegaly, by reducing the amount of growth hormone in your body. It is also used to treat the symptoms of certain types of cancers or tumours, and sometimes other conditions.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have diabetes, vitamin B12 deficiency, or gallstones.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. If you plan to get pregnant, or find you are pregnant, discuss this with your doctor. Women should use reliable contraception while taking *octreotide*.

### How is it given?

*Octreotide* is given as an injection or infusion under the skin or into a vein.

### What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and inject your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, inject the missed dose as soon as possible. Do not inject two doses at the same time.

### Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

### What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects   | Recommended action              |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Irregular heartbeat, fainting, lightheaded<br>Severe stomach pain, nausea  | Tell your doctor immediately    |
| Low blood sugar: symptoms may include sweating, trembling,<br>feeling anxious or irritable<br>Peeing more often, feeling thirsty                 | Tell your doctor                |
| Headache<br>Hair loss or thinning<br>Tiredness or weakness<br>Stomach upset, farting, oily bowel motions<br>Irritation or pain at injection site | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

### Other information:

- You will need regular blood tests while taking *octreotide* to check if it is causing problems with your liver or thyroid.
- Store *octreotide* in the fridge. Keep it in the box to protect from light.