

The Royal Children's Hospital Fertility Preservation Service Zoladex® 10.8mg Information Sheet

What is Zoladex®?

Zoladex® is a gonadotrophin releasing hormone agonist (GnRH agonist), also known as luteinising hormone releasing hormone agonist (LHRH agonist).

How does Zoladex® work?

Zoladex® suppresses ovarian function by reducing follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) and luteinizing hormone (LH) from the pituitary (hormone centre in the brain). In women, Zoladex® stops eggs inside the follicles from maturing and quietens down the ovaries into a sleep like state. Therefore, production of oestrogen and progesterone from the ovaries is temporarily stopped. It takes approximately 3 weeks from administration of Zoladex® to see the effects of the medication. During this time, there may be some vaginal bleeding. However, after 3 weeks, periods should stop until the medication is discontinued.

Indication for use

Studies in adult women suggest that Zoladex® may have a small protective effect on fertility, but there are no studies in teenagers. Zoladex® can be used to suppress menstruation during chemotherapy.

How is Zoladex® given?

Zoladex® is an implant that will be injected into the skin of the abdomen every 3 months. The implant is a very small pellet that is given by a special needle and syringe known as SafeSystem. The pellet is designed to slowly release the medication into the body over 3 months.

Common side effects

The most common side effects seen while taking Zoladex® are:

- hot flushes or sweating
- headaches
- mood changes
- vaginal dryness

Please speak with your treating clinician if you have any concerns in regards to these side effects.

Who do I contact for further information?

If you would like any further information, please contact the Oncofertility team at RCH.

Oncofertility Team
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