

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), which contains the medication Goserelin. It is also known as a 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 gland (the hormone centre of the brain). In women, Zoladex® quietens down the ovaries into a sleep like state by lowering the hormone Oestrogen. 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/spotting. 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 a medication that will be injected into the skin of the abdomen every 3 months. The implant in the Zoladex injection is a very small pellet that is given by a special needle and syringe known as SafeSystem. You won't be able to feel this pellet as it is very tiny but this allows the medication to be released slowly into your body over the 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
The Royal Children's Hospital
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