



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



Improving lifelong well-being

Decapeptyl™ and Zoladex™ Injections

What are they?

Decapeptyl™ and Zoladex™ are from a class of drugs called gonadotrophin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonists.

How do they work?

GnRH agonists work by reducing your levels of oestrogen and progesterone. The hormone supply is temporarily switched off, creating a false menopause. They may improve pelvic pain and stop menstrual bleeding. In women with endometriosis, they are thought to reduce the growth and spread of the disease.

How are they given?

Decapeptyl™ is an injection usually given in the muscle of the buttocks ('intra-muscular').

Zoladex™ is an injection given in the belly under the skin ('subcutaneous') on alternate sides each month.

They can be given monthly (every 28 days). Decapeptyl™ can also be given 3-monthly depending on the doctor's recommendations. If possible, the first injection should be given between days 1-5 of your menstrual cycle.

Are there any side effects?

Some women experience some temporary pain or bruising where the injection has been given. The most common side effects are those associated with the temporary menopause - hot flushes, night sweats and vaginal dryness. Irregular bleeding during the first month of treatment is also common. Sometimes, a worsening of your pelvic pain can occur initially, but this normally settles after the second week of your treatment.

If side effects do not settle or are particularly troublesome, you should seek help from your General Practitioner (GP).