



Leuprorelin and goserelin

Leuprorelin and goserelin injections are from a group of anti-hormonal medicines called gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues.

They work in the same, or a very similar way. In men they reduce levels of the male hormone, testosterone and in women they reduce the level of the female hormone, oestrogen. GnRH analogues are used to treat a range of conditions such as prostate cancer, breast cancer, endometriosis, uterine fibroids and central precocious puberty. They are also used in assisted reproduction, and to delay puberty in transgender youth.

At the moment, both leuprorelin and goserelin injections are fully funded.

What is changing?

- The change means **only goserelin will be fully funded**. Goserelin, also known as Zoladex is an injectable implant and is available as a 1-month injection and a 3-month injection.
- If you are taking leuprorelin, also known as Lucrin Depot PDS or Eligard, you will need to change to goserelin to keep on a fully funded GnRH analogue.
- Both goserelin and leuprorelin should be administered by your health care professional.
- Because goserelin only comes in a 1-monthly or 3-monthly injection, you will have to have an injection more often if you have been receiving a 6-monthly injection of leuprorelin.

When will this change happen?

From 1 December 2016 a part payment may be required for leuprorelin. Goserelin will continue to be fully funded. The part payment could range from approximately \$185 to \$1400 per injection depending on the injection you use.

Will goserelin work the same?

Yes. PHARMAC has received expert clinical advice that both goserelin and leuprorelin work in the same or very similar way. This means that you should have the same effect from using goserelin as you do from using leuprorelin.

Medsafe, the agency that approves medicines for use in New Zealand, carefully considered the safety and effectiveness of goserelin before approving it. Goserelin has been used in New Zealand for a long time and is used by lots of people already.

You shouldn't notice any difference in how you feel after using goserelin. If you do notice any changes or side effects, please talk with your doctor about it.

Will I still be able to use leuprorelin if I want to?

You don't have to change medicines if you don't want to, but from 1 December 2016 leuprorelin will have a part charge which will be approximately \$185 to \$1400 per injection.

Where can I get more information from?

If you would like more information about the change you can contact PHARMAC on enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz
Your doctor, nurse and pharmacist will also help guide you during the changeover period.