

If you already have osteoporosis, have a family history of osteoporosis or have had fractures in the past, talk to your doctor before you start treatment with degarelix.

Breast swelling or tenderness

Some men may experience swelling (gynaecomastia) and tenderness in the breast area. This can affect one or both sides and can range from mild sensitivity to ongoing pain. The amount of swelling can also vary from a small amount to a more noticeable enlargement.

Loss of sex drive and erection problems

Degarelix lowers your levels of testosterone. As testosterone is the hormone responsible for giving you your sex drive, men taking degarelix may lose their desire for sex (libido). Some men may also have problems getting and keeping an erection (erectile dysfunction). In most cases, this lasts for as long as you are on degarelix and may take a while to return to normal if you stop treatment. Some men may also find that degarelix makes their testicles smaller.

Diabetes

Degarelix can sometimes make diabetes more difficult to control. If you have diabetes, you may have to measure your blood sugar levels more often.

Other side effects

Other side effects that you may get include:

- chills, fever, or a feeling like you have the flu straight after your injection
- feeling dizzy or sick
- loose or watery stools (diarrhoea)
- headaches, or pain in your back, joints or bones
- a rash on your skin.

Degarelix may also increase your risk of getting heart rhythm problems. Before you start taking degarelix, tell your doctor if you already have heart problems or if you are taking medicines to treat a heart problem. You should also speak to your doctor if you notice anything different about how your heart is beating once you have started treatment, for example, if your heart is beating faster or slower than normal.

Reporting unusual side effects: The Yellow Card Scheme

If you think you are experiencing a side effect from your medication that is not mentioned in the information leaflet that comes with it, then you can report it using the Yellow Card Scheme. This is run by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The MHRA will investigate and if they find a problem with a medication then they will take action to protect the public. There are three ways you can report a side effect:

- Use the online Yellow Card form at www.yellowcard.gov.uk
- Ask your pharmacist for a Yellow Card form
- Call the Yellow Card freephone on 0800 100 3352

How long will I need to take degarelix?

You can take degarelix for as long as it is controlling your cancer. For information on other treatments that can be used if hormone therapy is no longer controlling your cancer, speak to your doctor or nurse, or call our confidential Helpline on 0800 074 8383. You can also read our Tool Kit fact sheet, **Treating prostate cancer after hormone therapy**.

More information

- Our Tool Kit fact sheet, **Hormone therapy**. This gives an overview of different types of hormone therapy.
- Our booklet, **Living with hormone therapy: A guide for men with prostate cancer**. This includes more detailed information on possible side effects of hormone therapy and ways to manage or reduce them. It also includes information on available support.

To order these publications, call our Helpline on 0800 074 8383 or email us at literature@prostate-cancer.org.uk. You can also download all of our publications from our website at www.prostate-cancer.org.uk

The Prostate Cancer Charity makes every effort to provide up-to-date, unbiased and accurate facts about prostate cancer. We hope that these will add to any medical advice you have had. Please continue to talk to your doctor if you are worried about any medical issues.

The Prostate Cancer Charity is the UK's leading charity working with people affected by prostate cancer. We fund research, provide support and information, and campaign to improve the lives of men with prostate cancer. If you would like to make a donation to support our work, please call 020 8222 7666 or visit www.prostate-cancer.org.uk/donations

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Confidential Helpline

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Certified member

*Calls are occasionally recorded for training purposes only. Confidentiality is maintained between callers and The Prostate Cancer Charity.

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Tell us what you think

We hope you have found this information useful.

If you have any comments or suggestions about any of our publications, you can email

literature@prostate-cancer.org.uk or write to

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References to sources of information used in the production of this fact sheet are available on our website.

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