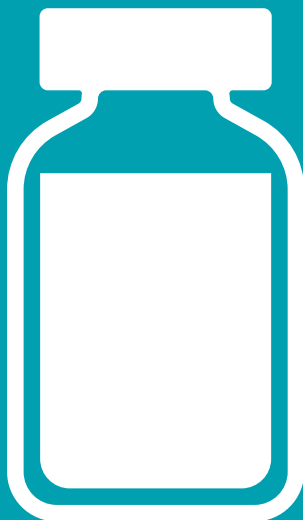


# Your guide to Sandostatin<sup>®</sup> LAR<sup>®</sup> (octreotide acetate)



Developed and funded by  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd.  
Information about reporting adverse  
events can be found on the last page.

This guide is intended for UK patients prescribed Sandostatin LAR. This guide does not replace the patient information leaflet provided with your medicine, which you are advised to read in full.

## About this guide

If you have recently been prescribed Sandostatin® LAR®, this guide will help you to understand the treatment options that you may be offered.

## Contents

How does Sandostatin® LAR® work? .....	4
How is it administered?.....	5
What should I tell my doctor? .....	6
What are the side effects? .....	7
What will I discuss during my doctor appointments? .....	8
How can I build a good relationship with my healthcare team?.....	9
Help keep track of my injections.....	10

## How does Sandostatin® LAR® work?

- Sandostatin® LAR® is an injection that contains a chemical called octreotide.
- Octreotide is a synthetic, long-lasting form of a naturally occurring hormone called somatostatin. The natural form of somatostatin is produced in the brain and digestive tract to inhibit the release of several hormones and chemicals from our organs.
- Sandostatin® LAR® contains a specially developed long-lasting form of octreotide.
- It mimics the action of somatostatin to reduce hormone secretion and control tumour growth.

## How is it administered?

- Sandostatin® LAR® is an injection.
- This is administered by a healthcare professional into your buttock muscles (alternating between left and right buttock on each visit).
- Sandostatin® LAR® is given once every four weeks.



## What should I tell my doctor?

- You should tell your doctor if you have problems regulating your blood sugar levels (such as diabetes or hypoglycaemia) or if you have gallstones, liver problems or a vitamin B12 deficiency.
- Your doctor will need to know if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.
- They will also need to know all other medications you are taking, including vitamins and supplements.



## What are the side effects?

Some of the most common side effects that have been reported with Sandostatin® LAR® are:

- Pain at the injection site
- Constipation or diarrhoea
- Feeling bloated
- Stomach cramps
- Excess wind
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Hyperglycaemia (too much sugar in the blood)
- Gallstones.

Please tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience any of these symptoms, or any other side effect whilst taking Sandostatin® LAR®.

Please read the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with the injection pack for a full list of possible side effects.

### **What happens if I miss an appointment to receive my Sandostatin® LAR® injection?**

If you miss an appointment for your injection, you should contact your doctor or nurse as soon as possible to arrange another appointment.

## What will I discuss during my doctor appointments?

- Test and scan results and how they relate to you
- The symptoms you are experiencing
- The effects of any treatments
- The effects of any medications you are taking to control symptoms
- Your overall health and well-being.



## How can I build a good relationship with my healthcare team?

The best way for you to take control of your health is by establishing a strong and open relationship with your doctors and nurses. This will ensure that:

- Your side effects are monitored and managed well
- You feel informed about your health

Ways in which you can help your healthcare team, and establish a good relationship with them include:

- Providing accurate information about the symptoms you experience
- Keeping a record of your symptoms and test results
- Informing your healthcare team of all the medicines you are taking
- Asking any questions concerning your condition and treatment
- Keeping contact details of your healthcare team.

# Help keep a track of your injections here

Injection date	Injection complete? (tick if yes)

Injection date	Injection complete? (tick if yes)

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.