



## What is Decapeptyl used for?

Decapeptyl belongs to a group of medicines called pituitary hormone analogues, which work by decreasing the secretions of sex hormones. It is used in women as part of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) programmes.

Decapeptyl assists in decreasing the amount of oestrogen produced by the ovaries. This provides a more controlled situation for subsequent stimulation of the ovaries to produce eggs.

This medicine is available only on a doctor's prescription.

### Do not use Decapeptyl if:

- ◆ You have a history of allergy to Decapeptyl or its ingredients
- ◆ You have abnormal vaginal bleeding that your doctor does not know about
- ◆ Do not take Decapeptyl after the expiry date on the package has been passed
- ◆ Do not take Decapeptyl if the packing is torn or shows signs of tampering
- ◆ If your medicine has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist/clinic for disposal

## Before you use Decapeptyl:

### TELL YOUR DOCTOR if you have any allergies to:

- ◆ Any other medicines
- ◆ Any other substance such as foods, preservatives or dyes
- ◆ You are breastfeeding
- ◆ Your periods have stopped or are irregular
- ◆ You have a history of osteoporosis, particularly if this led to fractures
- ◆ You have a strong family history of osteoporosis
- ◆ You have polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS)
- ◆ You are 18 years or younger
- ◆ You have Kidney or Liver disease

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

## How to use Decapeptyl

Decapeptyl is a pre-filled syringe and is given as a daily subcutaneous injection usually below or near your navel. Your clinic nurse or doctor will explain to you how to give the injection. Decapeptyl is used from either Day 2 or Day 21-22 of the menstrual cycle. The dose can vary and your clinic nurse or doctor will explain the dosage to you. Once you start Decapeptyl do not stop unless directed by your doctor or clinic nurse.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or clinic nurse carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

## If you forget to take Decapeptyl

It is important that you do not miss a dose of Decapeptyl. If you have forgotten a dose you must take that dose as soon as you can and have your next dose at the usual time. If you are worried contact your clinic nurse or doctor.

## Side effects

### **TELL YOUR DOCTOR or clinic nurse if you do not feel well while taking Decapeptyl**

All medicines have side effects. Sometimes they are more serious, most of the time they are not.

If you think you have side-effects talk to your doctor or clinic nurse.

### **The most common side effects are:**

- ◆ Hot flushes
- ◆ Breast tenderness
- ◆ Change in sex drive
- ◆ Vaginal Dryness
- ◆ Mood changes
- ◆ Pain, swelling or redness at the injection site
- ◆ Constipation
- ◆ Acne
- ◆ Joint pain
- ◆ Muscle pains
- ◆ Unusual tiredness
- ◆ Difficulty sleeping
- ◆ Persistent noise in the ears
- ◆ Nausea/vomiting
- ◆ Diarrhoea

### **Less common side effects are:**

- ◆ Shortness of breath, chest pain or rashes due to allergy
- ◆ Hair loss or tingling of the skin
- ◆ Excessive bleeding

## Storage

- ◆ Decapeptyl should be refrigerated between 2-8°C in its original packaging. Do not freeze.
- ◆ **DO NOT LEAVE IN THE CAR**
- ◆ Keep this medicine where children cannot reach it

## Disposal

Decapeptyl syringes should be discarded in an appropriate disposal unit.

If you have any Decapeptyl that has expired return it to your clinic or pharmacy for disposal