

Depot Lupron™ (Leuprolide Acetate)

Depot Lupron treats endometriosis by lowering estrogen hormone levels that are vital to endometriosis survival. As a result, this medication can provide significant pain relief.

As for fibroids, Depot Lupron can decrease menstrual blood flow and is often recommended before surgery to help allow the woman's body to build up iron stores in order for surgery to be safely performed.

Indications

Your doctor has prescribed Depot Lupron as part of your treatment plan. It is a monthly injection that can be administered by our nurses at a scheduled injection appointment. Depot Lupron is used for the management of endometriosis, or combined with an iron supplement can shrink uterine fibroids prior to surgery and can correct an anemic state as a result of heavy menstrual blood flow.

Potential Side Effects

Depot Lupron decreases estrogen production. Most women will have complete amenorrhea (no period) after the several months of treatment. Bone density loss, hot flashes, headaches, vaginal dryness, changes in mood, and decreased libido are other possible side effects. Such side effects can be partially relieved by the addition of “add-back” therapy. Your doctor may prescribe additional hormonal medications, specifically estrogen and/or progesterone therapy in order to avoid the blunting effect noted with the Depot Lupron.

Side effects may be experienced during the 6 months of treatment but should diminish soon after therapy ends. For example, your monthly period should return within 2-3 months after you have stopped Depot Lupron. Bone mineral loss experienced during therapy will completely recover after you stop taking the medication.

Dose

Depot Lupron is an injection given by your doctor once every 3 months (11.25 mg) or once each month (3.75 mg) for a 6-month treatment period.

Insurance Issues

Depending on your insurance, you may need preauthorization. Please check with one of our financial counselors to determine if this applies to your insurance company and plan. Depending on your insurance, Depot Lupron must be purchased through a specialty pharmacy and delivered to our office prior to your injection appointment. Your primary SRM nurse will facilitate this process once your SRM physician has determined Depot Lupron is the medication for you.

Pregnancy

Depot Lupron is not an “effective” contraception but due to its mechanism of action, it prevents you from getting pregnant. Nevertheless, if you are sexually active, make sure to use a non-hormonal birth control method such as condoms, diaphragm with contraceptive jelly, or an IUD (intrauterine device) to prevent pregnancy.