

# Medical Oncology

## Drug Information Sheet

**Degarelix (Firmagon):** a drug to treat your cancer.

**How will you get this drug?** A nurse will give this drug to you subcutaneously (injection) in your belly at the cancer center. The first dose will be two injections. Following doses will be one injection.

You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below:

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<b>Injection site reactions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The skin around the injection site may become red, warm or cause you discomfort.</li> <li>• Do not put pressure (waist band or belt) on injection site</li> <li>• Call doctor if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reaction does not go away after 3 days.</li> <li>○ Skin becomes blistered.</li> <li>○ Redness is larger than your fist.</li> <li>○ Severe bruising or bleeding.</li> <li>○ Severe pain or itching at injection site.</li> <li>○ Site reactions are getting worse with each shot.</li> <li>○ Rash across bridge of nose and cheeks.</li> <li>○ Purplish-red spots anywhere on your body.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Liver problems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab results will be monitored.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ dark urine (tea colored)</li> <li>○ severe right sided stomach pain</li> <li>○ light colored stools</li> <li>○ bruising or if you start to bleed easily</li> <li>○ yellowing of skin or eyes</li> <li>○ severe nausea or throwing up</li> <li>○ unexplained weight gain</li> <li>○ your belly feels big or bloated</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Loss of interest in sex or erectile dysfunction</b>	Talk to your doctor if you are having these symptoms.
<b>Degarelix (Firmagon) will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier.</li> <li>• Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away.</li> <li>• Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens.</li> <li>• Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water.</li> <li>• You may use the same toilet that you normally use.</li> <li>• If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet</li> <li>• Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet.</li> <li>• <b>It is safe to hug and kiss.</b></li> </ul>

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<b>Avoid pregnancy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>• Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug.</li> <li>• If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>• May cause fertility problems.</li> </ul>

### Less common side effects that may happen:

Less common side effects	What to do:
<b>Serious allergic reactions</b>	<p>After you return home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call 911 and go to the Emergency Department right away if you have any symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ trouble breathing</li> <li>○ chest tightness</li> <li>○ swelling of your face, lips, or tongue</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Call you doctor if you develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a rash</li> <li>○ itching</li> <li>○ hives</li> <li>○ fever</li> <li>○ chills</li> <li>○ pain in the abdomen or back</li> <li>○ cough</li> <li>○ runny or stuffy nose</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Changes in heart rhythm or increase in heart rate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some medicines can affect your heart beat. Your nurse will give you a list of medicines to avoid (QT prolongation).</li> <li>• Tell your doctor if you take any heart or blood pressure medicines.</li> <li>• Call 911 or go to the Emergency Room right away if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal</li> <li>○ Trouble breathing or shortness of breath</li> <li>○ Chest discomfort</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Call your doctor right away if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased or unexplained cough</li> <li>○ Swelling in feet or legs</li> <li>○ Sudden weight gain of more than 3 pounds in a day.</li> <li>○ Feeling dizzy or faint</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>Less common side effects</b>	<b>What to do:</b>
<b>Weak bones</b> Osteoporosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your bone density will be checked.</li> </ul> Your doctor may prescribe calcium and vitamin D.
<b>Lower than normal red blood cells</b> Anemia	Call you doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ shortness of breath with activity</li> <li>○ fatigue</li> <li>○ dizziness</li> <li>○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal</li> <li>○ headache</li> </ul>
<b>Increased blood sugar levels</b>	Call your doctor if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ have feelings of confusion</li> <li>○ are feeling more sleepy than normal</li> <li>○ are more thirsty than normal</li> <li>○ are more hungry than normal</li> <li>○ pass urine more often than usual</li> <li>○ have fast breathing</li> <li>○ have breath that smells like fruit</li> </ul>
<b>Hot flashes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the levels of hormones in your body you may have hot flashes, increased sweating or discomfort.</li> <li>• May be worse at night.</li> <li>• Try staying in a cool environment</li> <li>• Wear layers that can be removed if you experience a hot flash</li> <li>• Avoid or limit caffeine, spicy food, alcohol and stress which may make hot flashes worse</li> <li>• Place cool cloths on forehead</li> <li>• Call your doctor if this affects your daily life.</li> </ul>
<b>These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.</b>	