

Lucrin therapy

What is Lucrin?

Lucrin is a medication that shuts down the production of the hormones that cause puberty in children until a more appropriate time in their development.

At the start of puberty, the pituitary gland starts producing the gonadotrophins, LH and FSH, which cause the ovaries to produce oestrogen (in girls) and the testes to produce testosterone (in boys). These hormones are responsible for the signs of puberty.

Lucrin belongs to a class of drugs called gonadotrophin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonists. These stop the production of LH and FSH, with the result that oestrogen or testosterone levels fall, and the signs of puberty decrease or disappear. Lucrin must be given regularly until the decision is made to let puberty continue naturally.

How is it given?

Lucrin is typically given once every 3 or 4 months by intramuscular injections, usually in the thigh or outer buttocks. It must be given regularly, otherwise puberty will restart.

Your child's general practitioner or practice nurse will give the injection. The injection must be administered under the supervision of a doctor.

What is the dose?

Brand name: Lucrin Depot

Chemical name: leuprorelin acetate

Lucrin Depot comes in 3 strengths:

- Lucrin Depot 7.5mg, given monthly
- Lucrin Depot 22.5mg, given every 3 months
- Lucrin Depot 30mg, given every 3 months

Your endocrinologist will advise on the dose and frequency of the Lucrin injection.

Lucrin is available through the Perth Children's Hospital Pharmacy or your local chemist. Your endocrine doctor will provide you with a PBS prescription.

How long does my child need to take Lucrin for?

Duration of treatment must be individualised for each child. Usually, Lucrin therapy is stopped around 11-12 years of age.



What are the common side effects?

The most common side effect reported is injection site reaction, with some redness, swelling and pain.

During the first 2 months of therapy a girl may experience some vaginal bleeding or spotting.

There may be some temporary increase in the signs of puberty after the first injection of Lucrin because GnRH agonists initially increase FSH and LH levels before stopping their production.

For further information, please see Patient Product Information. GnRH agonists are also used in the treatment of various hormone-dependent tumours in adults. Much of the product information therefore, relates to possible side effects in these adult patients.

Are there any long-term consequences?

Lucrin has been used for the past 20 years for temporarily stopping puberty and is considered to be a safe drug. There is no evidence to date to indicate any long-term problem with pubertal development or subsequent fertility. However, no clinical studies have been completed in children to assess the full reversibility of fertility suppression.



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