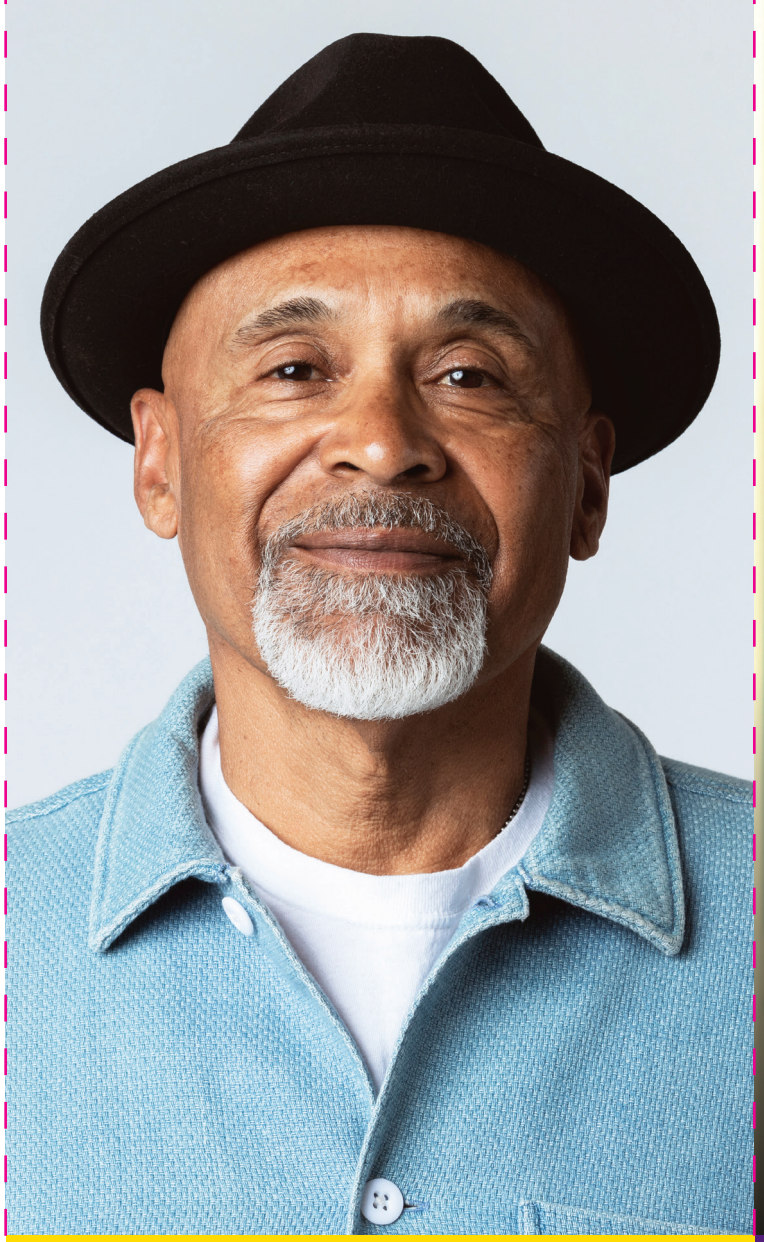
Dates of appointments for Zoladex

DATE OF NEXT INJECTION	TIME



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Using Zoladex® 3.6mg or 10.8mg (goserelin) for the treatment of early hormone-sensitive or advanced breast cancer

Your questions answered

This leaflet should be read in conjunction with the patient information leaflet that comes with your Zoladex 3.6mg or 10.8mg injection

Provided by
AstraZeneca as a service to medicine

Zoladex® (goserelin)

You have been prescribed Zoladex

What is Zoladex?

Zoladex 3.6mg is a small implant which is injected under the skin, using a needle. Zoladex 3.6mg contains a drug, goserelin, which dissolves out of the implant over a period of 28 days. Zoladex LA 10.8mg is a long-acting form of Zoladex where the drug dissolves over a period of 3 months. Once all the drug has dissolved, the implant will be broken down by the body, and will eventually disappear.

Where is Zoladex injected?

The injection is usually given into the skin around your stomach area and you may occasionally feel the implant under your skin.

Is the injection painful?

The injection is generally well tolerated with minimal discomfort.

Who will give me the injection?

Your nurse, GP or hospital doctor will be able to give you Zoladex.

How does the drug work?

In females, Zoladex works by reducing the amount of a natural hormone called estradiol (a type of oestrogen produced by your ovaries), which circulates in your blood.

How often do I need to have a dose?

If you have been given Zoladex 3.6mg, this is given every 28 days. If you are prescribed Zoladex LA 10.8mg this is given every 12 weeks. Treatment usually lasts for a few years.

What are the most common side effects?

The most common (≥1/10 people) side effects of Zoladex are: hot flushes and sweating, a reduced sex drive and pain, bruising, bleeding, redness or swelling where Zoladex is injected. Very common side effects in women include vaginal dryness, a change in breast size and acne. In men, impotence has been frequently reported. These side effects are not normally serious enough to make it necessary to stop treatment, but you should speak to your doctor if you are concerned.

What other side effects does Zoladex cause?

Like all treatments, Zoladex has side effects that may affect some patients. These include: headaches, thinning of your bones, tingling in your fingers or toes, skin rashes, hair loss, weight gain, pain in your lower back and joints, changes in blood pressure, changes in your mood, pain in your lower back or problems passing urine, bone pain at the beginning of treatment, reduced heart function or heart attack, swelling and tenderness of your breast and rises in blood sugar levels, which may occur early in treatment. For a full list of possible side effects, please read your patient information leaflet, which comes with your Zoladex 3.6mg or Zoladex LA 10.8mg injection. Talk to you doctor if there is pain in your lower back, problems passing urine, or bone pain at the beginning of treatment.

Will the side effects of Zoladex stop once I have finished the treatment?

Most of the side effects of Zoladex will stop once all the drug has dissolved after your last treatment.

What happens if I can't get to my appointment exactly 28 days after my last dose (or 12 weeks if given Zoladex LA 10.8mg)—if I'm on holiday, for example?

You should make every effort to have your Zoladex 3.6mg injection exactly 28 days after your last dose or your Zoladex LA 10.8mg every 12 weeks.

If you don't think you will be able to make your appointment, you should speak to your GP or practice nurse as soon as possible.

How will Zoladex affect other medication that I am taking?

Zoladex is unlikely to affect other medication that you may be taking. You should, however, tell your doctor if you are taking other medications, including those that you have bought over the counter and herbal remedies.

Storing your medicine

You may be given a prescription and asked to get your medicine from the pharmacy and keep it until you see the doctor/nurse again. Keep it in its original package and do not break the seal. Store it at room temperature (not above 25°C) and keep it in a safe place away from children.

This information should be read in conjunction with the Patient Information leaflet that accompanies your Zoladex medicine.

Reference: Zoladex (goserilin) patient information leaflet

Reporting the side effects of Zoladex

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.yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk.**

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine and will allow quick identification of new safety information.

Zoladex®
(goserelin)