degarelix

Warnings	Classification	Alternate Names
hazardous drug group 2	antineoplastic, hormonal agent, gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist	FIRMAGON degarelix acetate

Indications

- prostate cancer
- restricted to indications outlined in the BC Cancer benefit drug list

Reconstitution and Stability

- See safe work procedures to prepare doses unless dose provided by pharmacy.
- two hour expiry from time of reconstitution; store at room temperature
- **starter pack** (store at room temperature):
  - contains two vials of degarelix 120 mg for injection (for a total of 240 mg) and two pre-filled syringes with 3 mL solvent (sterile water for injection); 2 vial adaptors, plunger rods & needles for SUBCUT injection. Follow package insert directions. AVOID SHAKING**.** After reconstitution, the concentration is 40 mg/mL. Use immediately.
- **maintenance pack** (store at room temperature):
  - contains one vial of degarelix 80 mg for injection and one pre-filled syringe with 4.2 mL solvent (sterile water for injection); 1 vial adaptor, plunger rod & needle for SUBCUT injection. Follow package insert directions. AVOID SHAKING. After reconstitution the concentration is 20 mg/mL. Use immediately.

Compatibility

Preparation and Administration

- **VCH** – Refer to Administration of Antineoplastic/Oncology Medications
- **PHC** – Refer to Site Specific Restrictions for required competencies to administer this drug and where the drug can be administered. Refer to Hazardous Drugs for handling and waste disposal.

Administration Route	Approved	Preparation and Administration Instructions	Required Monitoring
Subcutaneous	YES	forms a depot upon SUBCUT administration must give as 3 or 4 mL per site as indicated below: ▪ 120 mg (40 mg/mL) dose = 3 mL per site ▪ 80 mg (20 mg/mL) dose = 4 mL per site ○ inject in abdominal region (avoid pressure areas, e.g. waistband) ○ insert needle deeply at an angle of not less than 45 degrees ○ to reduce incidence of injection site reactions: inject slowly over 30 seconds; leave needle in place for 30 seconds after injection and then withdraw needle slowly	Basic Monitoring or according to protocol
NO OTHER APPROVED ROUTES			

degarelix

Dosage

Follow specific protocol; dose and schedule depend on protocol and patient response:

adult males:
- starting dose: 240 mg SUBCUT (as two injections of 120 mg) on day 1, followed by
- maintenance dose: 80 mg SUBCUT (as a single injection) monthly, starting one month after starting dose.

- Refer to BC Cancer Drug Manual Monographs

Potential Hazards of Parenteral Administration

- local: injection site reactions (35 to 44%, severe less than 2%), including pain, erythema, swelling and induration

Important Implications

Contraindications/Cautions
- *contraindication*: use in women
- *cautions*:
  - those with congenital long QT syndrome, consider drug interactions if concomitant use with other agents that prolong QT/QTc
  - has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic or severe renal impairment

Side effects
- *CVS*: atrio-ventricular first degree block, hypertension (6 to 7%), myocardial infarction (1%), QT/QTc interval prolongation (20%) and hot flashes (25 to 26%)
- *increase in liver function tests*: gamma-glutamyltransferase, increase (10%, severe less than 1%) reversible; serum transaminases, increase (5 to 10%, severe less than1%), reversible
- *others*: weight gain; osteoporosis or ostopenia; reproductive system: libido, decrease (100%) and erectile dysfunction/impotence (90%)

Monitoring
- screening ECG; electrolytes, at baseline
- monitor electrolytes; liver function tests