

## Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee statement regarding prescribing of Gonadorelin analogues (GnRH) and degarelix in Primary Care for Prostate and Breast Cancer

- Triptorelin (Decapeptyl SR<sup>®</sup>) is currently the most cost-effective gonadorelin analogue.
- As long as the gonadorelin analogue is being prescribed for a licensed indication, it is acceptable for the GP to prescribe the most cost effective product, even if this is different from that originally recommended by secondary care. Therapy should be switched when the next dose of gonadorelin analogue is due.
- Goserelin 3.6mg (Zoladex<sup>®</sup>) is currently the only product licensed for advanced breast cancer. As such, breast cancer patients should remain on goserelin 3.6mg subcutaneously every month unless directed otherwise by secondary care.
- Degarelix is a GnRH antagonist and is an option for treating advanced hormone-dependent prostate cancer in people with spinal metastases.

### Background

Triptorelin, leuprorelin and goserelin are gonadotrophin releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues that are licensed for administration either monthly, 3-monthly or 6- monthly in the treatment of a number of indications. A summary of their licensed indications and administration schedules is given in Appendix 1. Triptorelin is classified as **Amber 2** (specialist initiation) for the indication of prostate cancer with the other GnRH analogues classified **Grey** for this indication. Goserelin is classified as **Amber 2** (specialist initiation) for breast cancer. The first dose of GnRH analogue will be given in secondary care. Other indications are classified as **Red** and prescribing should remain within secondary care.

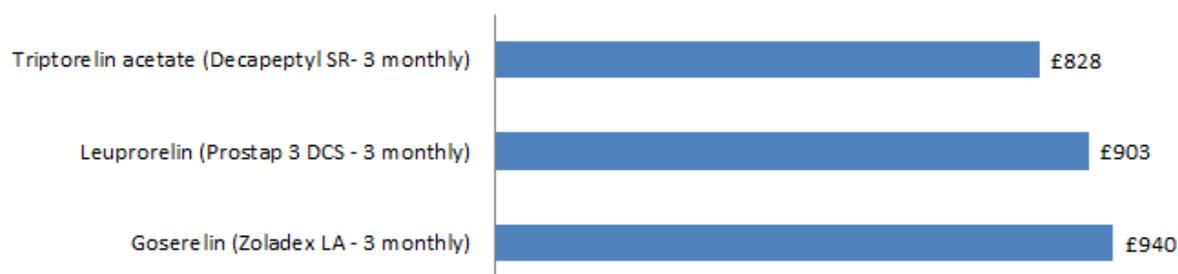
Degarelix is a GnRH antagonist and was approved for use in line with [NICE TA404](#) in 2016. It is recommended as an option for treating advanced hormone-dependent prostate cancer in people with spinal metastases and is classified as **Amber 2** (specialist initiation). A rebate scheme is in operation and NICE approval is dependent upon this being utilised.

### *Prostate Cancer*

NICE clinical guidance on Prostate cancer does not recommend which GnRH analogue should be prescribed. The selection of GnRH analogue should be driven by the licensed indications and evidence for use, the side-effect profile, the type of administration schedule desired and cost considerations.

There is no conclusive evidence to suggest that one GnRH analogue is more effective or has fewer side effects than other analogues for the treatment of prostate cancer. Triptorelin (Decapeptyl SR<sup>®</sup>) is significantly less expensive to the NHS than other gonadorelin analogues and its preferential use could achieve significant cost savings across the health community. Triptorelin is administered via a smaller sized needle (20 gauge) compared with goserelin LA 10.8mg (14 gauge) therefore minimising discomfort to patients.

### Annual cost of Prostate cancer treatments in primary care



Taking this into account, and in liaison with secondary care clinicians, triptorelin (Decapeptyl SR<sup>®</sup>) products are recommended in Nottinghamshire as the preferred GnRH analogues for prostate cancer. Patients may be prescribed triptorelin, even if this is different from the GnRH analogue originally recommended by secondary care. Please note that if a patient is at risk of adverse events from IM injection eg due to anticoagulation, then a licensed product which can be administered via the subcutaneous route is recommended. Therapy should be switched when the next dose of gonadorelin analogue is due.

#### Breast Cancer

The Zoladex<sup>®</sup> brand of goserelin 3.6mg is currently the only gonadorelin analogue licensed for advanced breast cancer. Off label gonadorelin analogues for this indication should only be prescribed by GPs on the recommendation of a specialist.

#### References:

[NICE Clinical Guideline 175: Prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment. January 2014](#)  
 Individual Summary of Product Characteristics accessed via [www.emc.medicines.org.uk](http://www.emc.medicines.org.uk).  
 London New Drugs Group. Triptorelin & GnRH Analogues Review, November 2007  
 PresQIPP Bulletin 88; LHRH analogues, April 2015

**Appendix 1- Summary of gonadorelin analogues and their licensed indications**

Frequency	Every month/ 4 weeks				Every 3 months/ 12 weeks				Every 6 months
Drug & Dose	<a href="#">Goserelin acetate 3.6mg</a>	<a href="#">Leuprorelin acetate 3.75mg</a>	<a href="#">Triptorelin acetate 3mg</a>	<a href="#">Triptorelin acetate 3.75mg</a>	<a href="#">Goserelin acetate 10.8mg</a>	<a href="#">Leuprorelin acetate 11.25mg</a>	<a href="#">Triptorelin acetate 11.25mg</a>	<a href="#">Triptorelin pamoate 11.25mg</a>	<a href="#">Triptorelin pamoate 22.5mg</a>
Brand Name	Zoladex	Prostap SR DCS	Decapeptyl SR	Gonapeptyl Depot	Zoladex LA	Prostap 3 DCS	Decapeptyl SR	Salvacyl	Decapeptyl SR
Form	Implant in prefilled syringe	Powder to reconstitute	Powder to reconstitute	Powder to reconstitute	Implant in prefilled syringe	Powder to reconstitute	Powder to reconstitute	Powder to reconstitute	Powder to reconstitute
Injection Route	S/C	S/C or I/M	I/M	S/C or I/M	S/C	S/C (prostate cancer), I/M (endometriosis)	I/M	I/M	I/M
NHS list price (March 2017)	£65.00	£75.24	£69.00	£81.69	£235.00	£225.72	£207.00	£248.00	£414.00
Cost / month	£65.00	£75.24	£69.00	£81.69	£78.33	£75.24	£69	£82.67	£69
Licensed indications (Refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics for more detailed information in licensed indications)									
Prostate Cancer	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Endometriosis	•	•	•	•		•	•		
Endometrial thinning	•	•							
Uterine fibroids	•	•	•	•					
Advanced Breast Cancer	•								
Early Breast Cancer	•		•						
Precocious puberty		•		•		•	•		
Assisted reproduction	•								
Severe sexual deviation								•	