

Gonadorelin

What is gonadorelin?

Gonadorelin is a man-made protein that is similar to a hormone in the body called gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH). GnRH causes the master gland of the body, the pituitary gland, to release other hormones called luteinizing hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH). LH and FSH work on the gonads (ovaries and testes) and are important for proper pubertal development in children and fertility in adults.

Why is gonadorelin used?

Gonadorelin is used to test how well the hypothalamus (higher brain centres) and pituitary gland are working in disorders of puberty.

How is gonadorelin used?

It is given as a single injection into the vein. Blood is taken before the injection and at timed intervals afterwards for one hour. This blood is used to measure the hormone response of the pituitary gland to the gonadorelin (LH and FSH). This test takes place in the PMH Clinical Investigation Unit.

What are the possible side-effects?

A serious allergic reaction may occur but is very rare. Other less serious side-effects are also unusual and include: headache, flushing, nausea or abdominal discomfort, dizziness or light-headedness, pain, swelling, or itching at the injection site or skin rash.

Why is gonadorelin unlicensed and what does this mean?

This means that gonadorelin is not currently approved for marketing in Australia by the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA), a government body that assures the safety and function of medicines in this country. However, gonadorelin has been used for many years for both diagnostic and fertility purposes in Australia and most other western countries (its primary reason for not being currently licensed and freely available is not related to safety or function concerns). It can only be prescribed by a doctor who has been given special authority by the TGA to do so.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

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