

COMPOUNDED Sermorelin acetate 15mg/vial (5mg/mL)—3 mL Fill Volume

Description

Sermorelin is the structurally truncated analog of Growth Hormone Releasing Hormone (GHRH). It consists of the first 29 amino acids of the naturally occurring neurohormone that is produced in the hypothalamus.[1] Sermorelin is the most widely used member of the GHRH analogue drug class. It can significantly promote the synthesis and release of growth hormone (GH) from cells in the pituitary gland, improving the serum concentrations of GH and subsequently insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) in animals and humans.[2][3] It is able to influence the concert of hormonal signals that affect GH secretion from the anterior pituitary including GHRH, somatostatin, and insulin like growth factor (IGF) and others. The positive and negative opposing regulation of growth hormone by GHRH and somatostatin, respectively, creates a rhythmic-circadian pattern of GH secretion.[4] Thus, modification of both pulse amplitude and frequency of GH secretion results from Sermorelin administration.[5] After sermorelin stimulates the release of GH from the pituitary gland, it increases synthesis of IGF-1 in the liver and peripheral tissues.[5]

Sermorelin acts on the growth hormone releasing hormone receptor (GHRHR) in the pituitary to regulate cellular activities. GHRHR is the natural receptor for the endogenous hormone, GHRH, and for sermorelin. This receptor regulates growth hormone release directly by stimulation and indirectly by a feedback relationships with somatostatin.[6]

Sermorelin is readily degraded after reaching the bloodstream, having a biological half-life of approximately 10-20 min.[7] Due to the biological half-life and bioavailability of Sermorelin, administration for growth in childhood GHD must occur periodically several times a day as subcutaneous-injections.[8] However, single daily dosing is sufficient to treat most cases of adult-onset GH insufficiency. Three (3) mcg/kg subcutaneous-injections of Sermorelin have been reported to simulate a naturally occurring GHRH mediated GH release responses.[9]

In addition to increasing production and secretion GHRH also affects sleep patterns by increasing the amount of slow wave sleep (SWS) while augmenting sleep-related GH secretion and reducing cortisol secretion.[10]

To exert all its beneficial effects, Sermorelin requires a functioning pituitary and a host of peripheral tissues.[11][12] This is due to the reliance on endogenous receptors controlling hormone secreting glands and tissues. More precisely, functioning growth hormone releasing hormone receptors (GHRHR) are required on somatotrophs in a functioning anterior pituitary.[11]

Mechanism of Action

Sermorelin essentially mimics the hypothalamic peptide, GHRH. Sermorelin acts directly on the pituitary stimulating the somatotroph cells ability to produce and secrete GH.[13] Sermorelin increases proliferation of somatotroph cells during development.[13] With the increase of serum GH, downstream effects occur. A notable hormone that is commonly used as a surrogate for growth hormone therapy, insulin like growth factor 1 (IGF-1), is known to increase with the administration of Sermorelin. IGF-I negatively regulates GHRH-mediated GH secretion.[14]

Sermorelin is able to influence the concert of hormonal signaling that effects the GH axis. GH secretion from the anterior pituitary is regulated by GHRH, somatostatin, and GH secretagogues. The positive and negative opposing regulation of growth hormone by GHRH and somatostatin creates a rhythmic-circadian GH secretion. GH asked by signaling target cells, most notably increasing the synthesis of IGF-1 in the liver and peripheral tissues.[13]

Sermorelin acts on the growth GHRHR in the pituitary to regulate cellular actives. GHRHR is the natural receptor for the endogenous hormone GHRH, a signaling hormone produced by the hypothalamus. This receptor among many other functions, controls growth hormone release, mainly by inhibition of somatostatin activity.[15]

Contraindications and Precautions

Tell your doctor of all prescription and nonprescription medication you may use, especially corticosteroids and thyroid medications. This drug may affect the results of certain lab tests (e.g., inorganic phosphorus, alkaline phosphatase). Make sure laboratory personnel and your doctors know you use this drug. Do not start or stop any medicine without approval from your healthcare provider. Hypothyroidism: Untreated hypothyroidism can jeopardize the response to Sermorelin. Thyroid hormone determinations should be performed before the initiation and during therapy. Thyroid hormone replacement therapy should be initiated when indicated. Intracranial lesions: Patients with GH deficiency secondary to an intracranial lesion were not studied in clinical trials; Sermorelin treatment is not recommended in such patients. Obesity, hyperglycemia or hyperlipidemia: Subnormal GH responses have been seen in obesity and hyperglycemia, and in patients with elevated plasma fatty acids.

GHRH FUNDAMENTALS

Synthesized and stored in the hypothalamus Releases and attaches to GHRHR for GH release Circulating GH binds directly with cell types and interacts with IGF1 IGF1 is produced mostly in the liver and muscle – regulating cell proliferation, differentiation, and tissue maturation (bone, cartilage, skeletal muscle, adipocyte, and cardio-myocyte Peripheral binding directly to GHRH receptors Reparative function of GHRH agonists: downregulation of inflammatory cytokines (IL-2, IL-6, IL-10).

Before starting:

REVIEW SYMPTOMS CONSISTANT WITH SUB-OPTIMAL HGH Muscle growth and development Maintenance of muscle mass Reduction in stamina Muscle weakness or loss of tone thinner skin and more wrinkles Decrease cognition Trouble sleeping.

OBTAIN IGF1 AND IGFBP-3 ON INITIAL AND FOLLOW UP CONSULTATIONS Explain the upper and lower limits of “normal” in that patients age category and define optimal lab values for this patient.

• • HGH vs. GHRH Explain the importance of HGH on the human body and the aging process Consider the approach of understanding “anabolic” vs. “catabolic” Show the patient their room for improvement and how this can be done safely Emphasize that this is NOT HGH and will not inhibit pituitary function but may actually enhance their own function.

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Adverse Reactions/ Side effects

Call your doctor for medical advice if pain/swelling/redness occurs at the injection site (occurring in approximately 16% of patients). Other possible, but less common side effects of rhGH (not Sermorelin) are upper respiratory conditions, nerve sensitivity, insomnia, depression, nausea, hypothyroidism chest pain, gynecomastia, headache, flushing, dysphagia, dizziness, hyperactivity, somnolence, urticaria and sore bones. Call your health care provider immediately if you are experiencing trouble swallowing, vomiting, and tightness in the chest. Antibody formation to Sermorelin has been reported after chronic subcutaneous administration of large doses but their clinical significance is unknown. Antibodies do not appear to affect growth hormone release nor appear to be related to a specific adverse drug reaction profile. No generalized allergic reactions have been reported. A temporary allergic reaction described by severe redness, swelling and urticaria at the injection sites has been reported in one patient who developed antibodies. Additionally, its use may reduce insulin sensitivity, thereby raising blood sugar to levels which could be harmful to diabetes sufferers. It may also decrease triiodothyronine (T3) levels due to its tendency to reduce the bodily levels of sodium, potassium, and phosphorus.

Pregnancy & Breastfeeding

Exercise caution during breastfeeding; it is not known if this drug is excreted in breast milk. Tell your doctor of all prescription and nonprescription medication you may use, especially: corticosteroids and thyroid medications. This drug may affect the results of certain lab tests (e.g., inorganic phosphorus, alkaline phosphatase). Make sure laboratory personnel and your doctors know you use this drug. Do not start or stop any medicine without approval from your healthcare provider. Hypothyroidism: Untreated hypothyroidism can jeopardize the response to Sermorelin. Thyroid hormone determinations should be performed before the initiation and during therapy. Thyroid hormone replacement therapy should be initiated when indicated. Intracranial lesions: Patients with GH deficiency secondary to an intracranial lesion were not studied in clinical trials; Sermorelin treatment is not recommended in such patients. Obesity, hyperglycemia or hyperlipidemia: Subnormal GH responses have been seen in obesity and hyperglycemia, and in patients with elevated plasma fatty acids.

Sermorelin Dosage Recommendations

Dosage range: Sermorelin 200 – 500 ug sc qd hs. 15 mg MDV: 500 ug/day for men with BMI from 18.5 – 24.9.

References:

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6. Howard AD, Feighner SD, Cully DF et al. 1996. A Receptor in Pituitary and Hypothalamus That Functions in GH release. *Science*. Vol. 273, Issue 5277, pp. 974-977
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12. Ceda, G.P., et al. 1987. The growth hormone (GH)-releasing hormone (GHRH)-GH-somatostatin axis: evidence for rapid inhibition of GHRH-elicited GH release by insulin-like growth factors I and II. *Endocrinology*, 120(4): p. 1658-62.
13. Mayo, K.E., et al., Growth hormone-releasing hormone: synthesis and signaling. *Recent Prog Horm Res*, 1995. 50: p. 35-73.
14. Ceda, G.P., et al., The growth hormone (GH)-releasing hormone (GHRH)-GH-somatostatin axis: evidence for rapid inhibition of GHRH-elicited GH release by insulin-like growth factors I and II. *Endocrinology*, 1987. 120(4): p. 1658-62.
15. Tannenbaum, G.S. and N. Ling, The interrelationship of growth hormone (GH)-releasing factor and somatostatin in generation of the ultradian rhythm of GH secretion. *Endocrinology*, 1984. 115(5): p. 1952-7.
16. Effects of human growth hormone, insulin-like growth factor I, and diet and exercise on body composition of obese postmenopausal women - PubMed (nih.gov)

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Shipping:

This medication was shipped in a cooler or insulated bag with ice packs to preserve the integrity of the medication during transportation. If you suspect that your medication could have been tampered, or is damaged, or is outside the expected temperature, DO NOT USE IT and call the pharmacy to obtain advise.

How to Safely Dispose of Unused or Expired Medicine

The best way to dispose of most types of unused or expired medicines is to mail/drop-off the medications back to the pharmacy. If you cannot get to a drug take-back location promptly and your medicine is on the FDA flush list, your next best option is to immediately flush this potentially dangerous medicine down the toilet. If the medication is not on the flush list, you should follow the instructions below:

- **Mix** medicines with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds.
- **Place** the mixture in a container such a sealed plastic bag
- **Throw** the container in your household trash
- **Scratch out** all personal information on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle or empty medicine packaging to make it unreadable, then dispose the container.

CDC INJECTION SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- Medications should be drawn up in a designated clean medication preparation area using a **new sterile syringe and sterile needle** to draw up medications including when obtaining additional doses of medication for the same patient.
- Prepare an injection as close as possible to the time of administration to the patient.
- **DO NOT** leave the needle inserted into a medication vial septum for multiple uses.
- Vials that are labeled as single-dose or single-use should be used for only a single patient. Enter those vials only once.
- DO NOT combine (pool) leftover contents of single-dose or single-use vials or store single-dose or single-use vials for later use.
- If a single-dose or single-use vial has been opened or accessed (e.g., needle-punctured) the vial should be discarded according to the time the pharmacy specifies for the opened vial or at the end of the case/procedure for which it is being used, whichever comes first. It should not be stored for future use.
- Medication vials should always be discarded whenever sterility is compromised or questionable.
- Multi-dose vials should be dedicated to a single patient whenever possible.
- If a multi-dose has been opened or accessed (e.g., needle-punctured) the vial should be dated and discarded within 28 days unless our pharmacy label specifies a different date for that opened vial.

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