

METASTRON[®] (Strontium-89 Chloride Injection)



What is Metastron?

Metastron is an injection developed to relieve the pain in your bones caused by your illness. In the body, Metastron acts like calcium, clearing rapidly from the blood and localizing selectively in bone, especially in bone cells that are rapidly dividing. It stays there for many weeks, steadily providing pain relief. For many years doctors have used certain types of radiation to relieve the pain experienced by people like you. Metastron is a development in this type of treatment.

Metastron contains small amounts of a specially selected form of radioactive strontium, chosen because almost all its radiation is given to the area where it is absorbed. This allows it to deliver therapy precisely where it is needed.

Why has Metastron been prescribed for me?

For many people Metastron is more appropriate than other types of therapy. It has been prescribed for you, as it seems likely that it will be the most suitable treatment in your case.

What effect will Metastron have?

At first you will feel no effect at all. You may even feel a slight increase in pain during the two or three days after injection. This is quite normal and you may need to increase your dose of painkillers slightly until this subsides. After about two weeks, sometimes a little longer, you should begin to feel the pain diminish. This reduction in pain should continue and the effect should then last for several months.



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Are there any side effects?

None that you will normally notice. You can eat and drink normally and there is no need to avoid alcohol unless you have already been advised to do so. There may be a slight fall in the number of cells in your blood and your doctor will want to carry out routine tests. This is quite normal. If you have any concerns, you should of course talk to your doctor.

Should I stop taking pain-killing drugs?

Your doctor may advise that you should continue to take your pain-killing medicine until the pain starts to subside. He may then suggest that you begin to reduce the dose gradually. You may want to continue reducing the dose and eventually you may not need painkillers at all. If you have any doubts, consult your doctor.

What about other treatments?

Your doctor will advise on what other treatments, if any, you should take. You may have been receiving hormone injections or tablets and your doctor may wish you to continue with these.

What activities can I undertake?

The injection will not prevent you from doing anything that you were already doing. As Metastron begins to relieve the pain you may find that you can tackle activities that were previously too difficult or too painful. Usually there is no problem with this, but be careful not to overdo it! If you are in any doubt, seek your doctor's advice. Metastron will have no effect on your ability to drive, or to use machinery.

Who should I tell?

You should tell anyone else who is giving you medical treatment that you have received Metastron, and show him or her this leaflet.

What precautions should I take?

The effects of Metastron within the body are limited to the small painful area in which it concentrates. Because of this it will not cause any harm to any other people through bodily contact.

One note of caution! During the first week after injection, Metastron will be present in your blood and urine. It is therefore important that you should take the common sense precautions listed below for one week.



When a normal toilet is available it should be used in preference to a urinal. The toilet should be flushed twice.



Wipe any spilled urine with a tissue and flush it away.

Ensure that you always wash your hands after using the toilet.



Immediately wash any linen or clothes, which become stained with urine. Wash them separately from other clothes, and rinse thoroughly



If you should cut yourself wash away any spilled blood.



If you use any urine collection device take advice on its use from your hospital doctor.

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What happens if my pain returns?

In most people who receive Metastron the effect lasts for several months at least. If pain returns, you should consult your doctor. He may give you another Metastron injection if this is the most appropriate treatment.

What is in Metastron?

A single injection of Metastron contains 150MBq strontium-89 chloride in 4mL of solution. Each milliliter of solution contains 10.9 to 22.6mg strontium chloride.

Further Information

Metastron may only be prescribed and administered by a qualified physician. Your doctor has further information about your treatment, and you should not hesitate to ask him if you have any questions or concerns.

This guide is provided as a courtesy of:

GE Healthcare



This information is not a substitute for an informed discussion between you and your physician. Consult your physician if you need more information on the procedures and drugs used in this pamphlet.