

# FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> (degarelix)

**FERRING**

PHARMACEUTICALS

## A simple guide to your treatment journey

For further information about FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup>,  
you should refer to your patient information  
leaflet or speak to your healthcare professional



# How can I get the most out of my treatment with FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup>?

**This guide is intended for men with advanced hormone-dependent prostate cancer. It will help you to understand your treatment and how to get the most from it.**

You have been prescribed FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> because your healthcare professional has assessed your diagnosis, and considers this to be the most appropriate treatment for you.

Before you start to take your medicine, read the patient information leaflet provided which will answer some of the questions you may have about your diagnosis of hormone-dependent prostate cancer and your treatment.

If you have any questions about your treatment plan, make sure you speak to your GP, practice nurse or specialist consultant.



# FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> – Answers to some common questions

## How does FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> work?

FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> acts by blocking the message from the brain that tells the testes to produce testosterone. This helps to treat the hormone-dependent prostate cancer, which uses the testosterone in your body to grow.

## What does FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> treatment involve?

- FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> will be given by a doctor or nurse during a short clinic visit to the hospital or your GP surgery
- FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> is administered slowly by injection into the fat just under the skin of your abdomen. This will give you a continuous release of FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> for a month
- The first time you are given FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup>, you will have two injections on the same day. After this, you will receive one injection every month for as long as it is working for you

STARTING DOSE		MAINTENANCE DOSES*		
Month <b>1</b>	Month <b>2</b>	Month <b>3</b>	Month <b>4</b>	Month <b>5</b>
240mg INJECTION (2X120mg)	80mg INJECTION	80mg INJECTION	80mg INJECTION	80mg INJECTION

\*Maintenance doses will continue for as long as treatment is required.



# FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> – Answers to some common questions

## How long will I need to be treated with FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup>?

Your healthcare team, and in particular your specialist consultant, will review your condition regularly and you should continue with your injections for long as you and they agree that it is working for you.

## What can I do to take care of the injection site when I go for my appointments?



Keep the injection site clean



Try not to wear belts or waistbands that may rub against the injection site



If possible wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing

Your GP or nurse will be able to suggest ways to manage the injection site should pain persist



## **I don't enjoy injections. Can I stop my treatment?**

Please do not stop making injection appointments or stop attending them, as this could have serious implications for your health.

The injections affect people differently, and your doctor or nurse will vary the injection site each time to help minimise any discomfort. Talk to your doctor or nurse if any symptoms persist or cause you concern.

## **What if I miss an injection?**

It is important that you continue to receive your monthly injections of FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> as prescribed by your hospital specialist to ensure that your low testosterone levels are maintained. It is a good idea to set up your next appointment directly after your injection.

**If you miss or think you may have missed an injection,  
contact your nurse or doctor straight away**



# Your PSA levels record

**PSA (prostate specific antigen) is a protein that is produced by normal as well as cancer cells in the prostate.**

The PSA test is a blood test that will measure the amount of PSA in your blood, which will help your doctor or nurse to see how well you are responding to your treatment.

On the next three pages, you will find a treatment plan and a PSA log of your test results for you to fill out. This will help you and your healthcare professionals to track the results from your PSA blood tests, and to see how your treatment is helping you over time.



# My FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup> treatment plan

## I have been prescribed FIRMAGON<sup>®</sup>

This means that I will have injections every month.

My first injection was on  at  am/pm.

### Contact details of my healthcare professionals:

<b>GP</b>	Name:
	Phone number:
	Email:
	GP practice:
<b>Nurse</b>	Name:
	Phone number:
	Email:
	Hospital:
<b>Specialist consultant</b>	Name:
	Phone number:
	Email:
	Hospital:

### Follow-up injection appointments:

Date:	Time:	Date:	Time:
With:		With:	
Place:		Place:	
Date:	Time:	Date:	Time:
With:		With:	
Place:		Place:	
Date:	Time:	Date:	Time:
With:		With:	
Place:		Place:	











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page.

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