Octreotide (Sandostatin)
Subcutaneous Injection

What is Octreotide?
Octreotide, is a hormone medicine used to treat the symptoms of carcinoid syndrome. There are two types of Octreotide, a short-acting and long-acting called Sandostatin LAR. The short acting Octreotide is given by subcutaneous injection (sub-Q shot). The sub-Q shot is given into the fat layer just under the skin.

Why do I need this medicine?
Carcinoid syndrome is a group of symptoms that can happen when you have a carcinoid tumor. Common symptoms include diarrhea and flushing of the skin. To help control symptoms, your doctor may recommend that you take Octreotide. Sub-Q Octreotide is often given first to check how well you respond to the medicine. The amount (dose) of medicine you take will depend on the symptoms. After you are able to take the sub-Q Octreotide, your doctor may recommend Sandostatin LAR to help control symptoms. You may also need to use the sub-Q medicine if symptoms are not controlled with the Sandostatin LAR.

How do I take Octreotide Sub-Q?
- You will be taught how to give this medicine as a sub-Q shot.
- The shot may be given up to three times a day. Your doctor will let you know the dose and how often you should take the medicine.
- Keep a bag of pre-filled syringes of Octreotide in the refrigerator. This helps you to have the medicine ready if it is needed quickly.
- Before you give the shot, warm the syringe in your hand until the medicine gets to room temperature. Or, set the syringe outside the refrigerator for about 30 minutes before giving the shot. If the medicine is given cold, it may cause discomfort or pain.
• This medicine can be stored at room temperature for up to 14 days. If a bottle of Octreotide has been stored at room temperature for more than 14 days, it should be thrown away.

• You may take the pre-filled syringes with you when you travel away from home. The syringes should be stored in a hard cooler or hard toothbrush holder.

Do not give the sub-Q Octreotide 30 minutes to 1 hour before or after a meal. It may cause nausea with vomiting if your stomach is full.

What are the Common Side Effects?
Common side effects may include:
• Nausea
• Diarrhea
• Stomach cramps
• The area where you give the shot may be red, sore or show a bruise

When Should I Call the Doctor?
Call 911 and get emergency help if you have any of the following:
• Shortness of Breath
• Chest Pain

Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following:
• Fever
• Chills

What if I need help with paying for my medicine?
Talk to your doctor and the nurse about any assistance you may need to help cover the cost of this medicine. Your health care team can help you find resources for this medicine.