

Nutropin AQ[®]

[somatropin (rDNA origin) injection]

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use Nutropin AQ safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for Nutropin AQ.

Nutropin AQ (somatropin (rDNA origin) injection)
Initial U. S. Approval: 1987
----- RECENT MAJOR CHANGES -----

Warnings and Precautions, Pancreatitis (5.15),.....04/2012

-----**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**-----

- Nutropin AQ is a recombinant human growth hormone indicated for:
 - Pediatric Patients:** Treatment of children with growth failure due to growth hormone deficiency (GHD), idiopathic short stature (ISS), Turner syndrome (TS), and chronic kidney disease (CKD) up to the time of renal transplantation (1.1).
 - Adult Patients:** Treatment of adults with either childhood-onset or adult-onset GHD (1.2).

-----**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**-----

Nutropin AQ should be administered subcutaneously (2).

Injection sites should always be rotated to avoid lipatrophy (2.3).

- Pediatric GHD:** Up to 0.3 mg/kg/week (2.1)
- Pubertal Patients:** Up to 0.7 mg/kg/week (2.1)
- Idiopathic Short Stature:** Up to 0.3 mg/kg/week (2.1)
- Chronic Kidney Disease:** Up to 0.35 mg/kg/week (2.1)
- Turner Syndrome:** Up to 0.375 mg/kg/week (2.1)
- Adult GHD:** Either a non-weight based or weight-based dosing regimen may be followed, with doses adjusted based on treatment response and IGF-1 concentrations (2.2).

Non-weight-based: A starting dose of approximately 0.2 mg/day (range 0.15–0.3 mg/day) increased gradually every 1–2 months by increments of approximately 0.1–0.2 mg/day.

Weight-based: Initiate from not more than 0.006 mg/kg/day; the dose may be increased up to a maximum of 0.025 mg/kg/day in patients ≤ 35 years old or 0.0125 mg/kg/day in patients > 35 years old.

-----**DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**-----

Nutropin AQ is a sterile liquid available in the following vial, pen cartridge and NuSpin forms (3):

- Vial: 10 mg/2 mL
- Pen Cartridge: 10 mg/2 mL (yellow color band), and 20 mg/2 mL (purple color band)
- NuSpin: 5 mg/2 mL (clear device), 10 mg/2 mL (green device), and 20 mg/2 mL (blue device).

-----**CONTRAINDICATIONS**-----

- Acute critical illness (4.1, 5.1).
- Children with Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) who are severely obese or have severe respiratory impairment – reports of sudden death (4.2, 5.2).
- Active malignancy (4.3).
- Active proliferative or severe non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy (4.4).
- Children with closed epiphysis (4.5).
- Hypersensitivity to somatropin or excipients (4.6).

-----**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**-----

- Acute critical illness: Evaluate potential benefit of treatment continuation against potential risk (5.1).
- PWS: Evaluate for signs of upper airway obstruction and sleep apnea before initiating therapy. Discontinue treatment if these signs occur. (5.2).
- Neoplasia: Monitor patients with preexisting tumors for progression or recurrence. Increased risk of a second neoplasm in childhood cancer survivors treated with somatropin - in particular meningiomas in patients treated with radiation to the head for their first neoplasm. (5.3).
- Impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) and Diabetes Mellitus (DM): Periodically monitor glucose levels in all patients, as IGT and DM may be unmasked during somatropin therapy. Doses of concurrent antihyperglycemic drugs in patients with DM may require adjustment. (5.4).
- Intracranial hypertension (IH): Exclude preexisting papilledema. IH may develop, but is usually reversible after discontinuation or dose reduction (5.5).
- Fluid retention (e.g., edema, arthralgia, carpal tunnel syndrome- especially in adults): Reduce dose as necessary if such signs develop (5.6).
- Hypopituitarism: Closely monitor other hormone replacement therapies (5.7).
- Hypothyroidism: Monitor thyroid function periodically as it may first become evident or worsen after initiation of somatropin (5.8).
- Slipped capital femoral epiphysis (SCFE): Evaluate any child with onset of a limp or hip/knee pain for possible SCFE (5.9).
- Progression of preexisting scoliosis: Monitor any child with scoliosis for progression of the curve (5.10).
- Pancreatitis: Consider pancreatitis in patients with persistent severe abdominal pain (5.15)

-----**ADVERSE REACTIONS**-----

Common somatropin-related adverse reactions include injection site reactions. Additional common adverse reactions in adults include edema, arthralgias, and carpal tunnel syndrome (6.1, 6.2).

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Genentech at 1-888-835-2555 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

-----**DRUG INTERACTIONS**-----

- Inhibition of 11 β-Hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase Type 1: May require the initiation of glucocorticoid replacement therapy. Patients treated with glucocorticoid replacement for previously diagnosed hypoadrenalism may require an increase in their maintenance doses (7.1, 7.2).
- Glucocorticoid replacement: Should be carefully adjusted (7.2).
- Cytochrome P450 - Metabolized Drugs: Monitor carefully if used with somatropin (7.3).
- Oral estrogen: Larger doses of somatropin may be required in women (7.4).
- Insulin and/or other hypoglycemic agents: May require adjustment (7.5).

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION.	Revised: 04/2012
---	------------------

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: CONTENTS*

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

- Pediatric Patients
- Adult Patients

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Dosing for Pediatric Patients
 - Dosing for Adult Patients
 - Preparation and Administration
- #### 3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS
- #### 4 CONTRAINDICATIONS
- Acute Critical Illness
 - Prader-Willi Syndrome in Children
 - Active Malignancy
 - Diabetic Retinopathy
 - Closed Epiphysis
 - Hypersensitivity

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Acute Critical Illness
- Prader-Willi Syndrome
- Neoplasms
- Glucose Intolerance and Diabetes Mellitus
- Intracranial Hypertension
- Fluid Retention
- Hypopituitarism
- Hypothyroidism
- Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis in Pediatric Patients
- Progression of Preexisting Scoliosis in Pediatric Patients
- Otitis Media and Cardiovascular Disorders in Patients with Turner Syndrome
- Chronic Kidney Disease in Pediatric Patients
- Local and Systemic Reactions
- Laboratory Tests
- Pancreatitis

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

- Most Serious and/or Most Frequently Observed Adverse Reactions
- Clinical Trials Experience
- Post-Marketing Experience
- Immunogenicity

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

- 11 β-Hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase Type 1
- Pharmacologic Glucocorticoid Therapy and Supraphysiologic Glucocorticoid Treatment
- Cytochrome P450-Metabolized Drugs
- Oral Estrogen
- Insulin and/or Oral/Injectable Hypoglycemic Agents

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- Pregnancy
- Nursing Mothers
- Geriatric Use
- Hepatic Impairment
- Renal Impairment
- Gender Effects

10 OVERDOSAGE

11 DESCRIPTION

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

- Mechanism of Action
- Pharmacodynamics
- Pharmacokinetics

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

- Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

- Pubertal Patients with GHD
- Pediatric Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease
- Pediatric Patients with Turner Syndrome
- Pediatric Patients with Idiopathic Short Stature
- Adult Growth Hormone Deficiency

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

*Sections of subsections omitted from the Full Prescribing Information are not listed.

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

1.1 Pediatric Patients

Growth Hormone Deficiency (GHD) - Nutropin AQ[®] is indicated for the treatment of pediatric patients who have growth failure due to inadequate secretion of endogenous growth hormone (GH).

Growth Failure Secondary to Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) - Nutropin AQ is indicated for the treatment of growth failure associated with CKD up to the time of renal transplantation. Nutropin AQ therapy should be used in conjunction with optimal management of CKD.

Idiopathic Short Stature (ISS) - Nutropin AQ is indicated for the treatment of ISS, also called non-GHD short stature, defined by height SDS ≤ – 2.25, and associated with growth rates unlikely to permit attainment of adult height in the normal range, in pediatric patients whose epiphyses are not closed and for whom diagnostic evaluation excludes other causes associated with short stature that should be observed or treated by other means.

Short Stature Associated with Turner Syndrome (TS) - Nutropin AQ is indicated for the treatment of short stature associated with TS.

1.2 Adult Patients

Nutropin AQ is indicated for the replacement of endogenous GH in adults with GHD who meet either of the following two criteria:

Adult Onset: Patients who have GHD, either alone or associated with multiple hormone deficiencies (hypopituitarism), as a result of pituitary disease, hypothalamic disease, surgery, radiation therapy, or trauma; or

Childhood Onset: Patients who were GH deficient during childhood as a result of congenital, genetic, acquired, or idiopathic causes.

Patients who were treated with somatropin for GHD in childhood and whose epiphyses are closed should be reevaluated before continuation of somatropin therapy at the reduced dose level recommended for GH deficient adults. According to current standards, confirmation of the diagnosis of adult GHD in both groups involves an appropriate GH provocative test with two exceptions: (1) patients with multiple pituitary hormone deficiencies due to organic disease; and (2) patients with congenital/genetic GHD.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

For subcutaneous injection.

Therapy with Nutropin AQ should be supervised by a physician who is experienced in the diagnosis and management of pediatric patients with short stature associated with growth hormone deficiency (GHD), chronic kidney disease, Turner syndrome, idiopathic short stature, or adult patients with either childhood-onset or adult-onset GHD.

2.1 Dosing for Pediatric Patients

Nutropin AQ dosage and administration schedule should be individualized for each patient. Response to growth hormone (GH) therapy in pediatric patients tends to decrease with time. However, in pediatric patients failure to increase growth rate, particularly during the first year of therapy, suggests the need for close assessment of compliance and evaluation of other causes of growth failure, such as hypothyroidism, under-nutrition, advanced bone age and antibodies to recombinant human GH (rhGH).

Treatment with Nutropin AQ for short stature should be discontinued when the epiphyses are fused.

Pediatric Growth Hormone Deficiency (GHD)

A weekly dosage of up to 0.3 mg/kg of body weight divided into daily subcutaneous injection is recommended.

In pubertal patients, a weekly dosage of up to 0.7 mg/kg divided daily may be used.

Growth Failure Secondary to Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

A weekly dosage of up to 0.35 mg/kg of body weight divided into daily subcutaneous injection is recommended.

Nutropin AQ therapy may be continued up to the time of renal transplantation.

In order to optimize therapy for patients who require dialysis, the following guidelines for injection schedule are recommended:

- Hemodialysis patients should receive their injection at night just prior to going to sleep or at least 3 to 4 hours after their hemodialysis to prevent hematoma formation due to the heparin.
- Chronic Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis (CCPD) patients should receive their injection in the morning after they have completed dialysis.
- Chronic Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) patients should receive their injection in the evening at the time of the overnight exchange.

Idiopathic Short Stature (ISS)

A weekly dosage of up to 0.3 mg/kg of body weight divided into daily subcutaneous injections is recommended.

Short Stature Associated with Turner Syndrome (TS)

A weekly dosage of up to 0.375 mg/kg of body weight divided into equal doses 3 to 7 times per week by subcutaneous injection is recommended.

2.2 Dosing for Adult Patients

Adult Growth Hormone Deficiency (GHD)

Either of two approaches to Nutropin AQ dosing may be followed: a weight-based regimen or a non-weight-based regimen.

Weight based – Based on the dosing regimen used in the original adult GHD registration trials, the recommended dosage at the start of treatment is not more than 0.006 mg/kg daily. The dose may be increased according to individual patient requirements to a maximum of 0.025 mg/kg daily in patients ≤ 35 years and to a maximum of 0.0125 mg/kg daily in patients over 35 years old. Clinical response, side effects, and determination of age- and gender-adjusted serum insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1) concentrations should be used as guidance in dose titration.

Non-weight based – Alternatively, taking into account the published literature, a starting dose of approximately 0.2 mg/day (range, 0.15 to 0.30 mg/day) may be used without consideration of body weight. This dose can be increased gradually every 1 to 2 months by increments of approximately 0.1 to 0.2 mg/day, according to individual patient requirements based on the clinical response and serum IGF-1 concentrations. The dose should be decreased as necessary on the basis of adverse events and/or serum IGF-1 concentrations above the age- and gender-specific normal range.

Maintenance dosages vary considerably from person to person, and between male and female patients.

A lower starting dose and smaller dose increments should be considered for older patients, who are more prone to the adverse effects of somatropin than younger individuals. In addition, obese individuals are more likely to manifest adverse effects, when treated with a weight-based regimen. In order to reach the defined treatment goal, estrogen-replete women may need higher doses than men. Oral estrogen administration may increase the dose requirements in women.

2.3 Preparation and Administration

The solution should be clear immediately after removal from the refrigerator. Occasionally, after refrigeration, you may notice that small colorless particles of protein are present in the solution. This is not unusual for solutions containing proteins. Allow the vial, pen cartridge or NuSpin[®] to come to room temperature and gently swirl. If the solution is cloudy, the contents MUST NOT be injected.

Parenteral drug products should always be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit.

Injection sites, which may be located on the thigh, upper arm, abdomen or buttock, should **always** be rotated to avoid lipatrophy.

Nutropin AQ Vial

Before needle insertion, wipe the septum of the vial with rubbing alcohol or an antiseptic solution to prevent contamination of the contents by microorganisms that may be introduced by repeated needle insertions. It is recommended that Nutropin AQ be administered using sterile, disposable needles. Follow the directions provided in the Nutropin AQ Pen Instructions for Use.

The Nutropin AQ Pen 10 allows for administration of a minimum dose of 0.1 mg to a maximum dose of 4.0 mg, in 0.1 mg increments. The Nutropin AQ Pen 20 allows for administration of a minimum dose of 0.2 mg to a maximum dose of 8.0 mg, in 0.2 mg increments.

Nutropin AQ NuSpin

The Nutropin AQ NuSpin 5, 10 and 20 are multi-dose, dial-a-dose injection devices prefilled with Nutropin AQ in a 5 mg/2 mL, 10 mg/2 mL or 20 mg/2 mL cartridge, respectively, for subcutaneous use. It is recommended that Nutropin AQ be administered using sterile, disposable needles. Follow the directions provided in the Nutropin AQ NuSpin 5, 10 or 20 Instructions for Use.

The Nutropin AQ NuSpin 5 allows for administration of a minimum dose of 0.05 mg to a maximum dose of 1.75 mg, in increments of 0.05 mg.

The Nutropin AQ NuSpin 10 allows for administration of a minimum dose of 0.1 mg to a maximum dose of 3.5 mg, in increments of 0.1 mg.

The Nutropin AQ NuSpin 20 allows for administration of a minimum dose of 0.2 mg to a maximum dose of 7.0 mg, in increments of 0.2 mg.

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Nutropin AQ is available in the following vial, pen cartridge and NuSpin forms:

- Vial: 10 mg/2 mL
- Pen Cartridge: 10 mg/2 mL (yellow color band), and 20 mg/2 mL (purple color band)
- NuSpin: 5 mg/2 mL (clear device), 10 mg/2 mL (green device), and 20 mg/2 mL (blue device)

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

4.1 Acute Critical Illness

Treatment with pharmacologic amounts of somatropin is contraindicated in patients with acute critical illness due to complications following open heart surgery, abdominal surgery or multiple accidental trauma, or those with acute respiratory failure. Two placebo-controlled clinical trials in non-GHD adult patients (n = 522) with these conditions in intensive care units revealed a significant increase in mortality (41.9% vs. 19.3%) among somatropin-treated patients (doses 5.3–8 mg/day) compared to those receiving placebo *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]*.

4.2 Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) in Children

Somatropin is contraindicated in patients with PWS who are severely obese, have a history of upper airway obstruction or sleep apnea, or have severe respiratory impairment. There have been reports of sudden death when somatropin was used in such patients. Nutropin AQ is not indicated for the treatment of pediatric patients who have growth failure due to genetically confirmed PWS. *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.2)]*.

4.3 Active Malignancy

In general, somatropin is contraindicated in the presence of active malignancy. Any pre-existing malignancy should be inactive and its treatment complete prior to instituting therapy with somatropin. Somatropin should be discontinued if there is evidence of recurrent activity. Since growth hormone deficiency (GHD) may be an early sign of the presence of a pituitary tumor (or, rarely, other brain tumors), the presence of such tumors should be ruled out prior to initiation of treatment. Somatropin should not be used in patients with any evidence of progression or recurrence of an underlying intracranial tumor.

4.4 Diabetic Retinopathy

Somatropin is contraindicated in patients with active proliferative or severe non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

4.5 Closed Epiphysis

Somatropin should not be used for growth promotion in pediatric patients with closed epiphysis.

4.6 Hypersensitivity

Nutropin AQ is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to somatropin, excipients, or diluent. Localized reactions are the most common hypersensitivity reaction.

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Acute Critical Illness

Increased mortality in patients with acute critical illnesses due to complications following open heart surgery, abdominal surgery or multiple accidental trauma, or those with acute respiratory failure has been reported after treatment with pharmacologic amounts of somatropin *[see Contraindications (4.1)]*. The safety of continuing somatropin treatment in patients receiving replacement doses for approved indications who concurrently develop these illnesses has not been established. Therefore, the potential benefit of treatment continuation with somatropin in patients having acute critical illnesses should be weighed against the potential risk.

5.2 Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) in Children

There have been reports of fatalities after initiating therapy with somatropin in pediatric patients with PWS who had one or more of the following risk factors: severe obesity, history of upper airway obstruction or sleep apnea, or unidentified respiratory infection. Male patients with one or more of these factors may be at greater risk than females. Patients with PWS syndrome should be evaluated for signs of upper airway obstruction and sleep apnea before initiation of treatment with somatropin. If during treatment with somatropin, patients show signs of upper airway obstruction (including onset of or increased snoring) and/or new onset sleep apnea, treatment should be interrupted. All patients with PWS treated with somatropin should also have effective weight control and be monitored for signs of respiratory infection, which should be diagnosed as early as possible and treated aggressively *[see Contraindications (4.2)]*. Nutropin AQ is not indicated for the treatment of pediatric patients who have growth failure due to genetically confirmed PWS.

5.3 Neoplasms

Patients with preexisting tumors or growth hormone deficiency (GHD) secondary to an intracranial lesion should be examined routinely for progression or recurrence of the underlying disease process. In pediatric patients, clinical literature has revealed no relationship between somatropin replacement therapy and central nervous system (CNS) tumor recurrence or new extracranial tumors. However, in childhood cancer survivors, an increased risk of a second neoplasm has been reported in patients treated with somatropin after their first neoplasm. Intracranial tumors, in particular meningiomas, in patients treated with radiation to the head for their first neoplasm, were the most common of these second neoplasms. In adults, it is unknown whether there is any relationship between somatropin replacement therapy and CNS tumor recurrence.

Patients should be monitored carefully for any malignant transformation of skin lesions.

5.4 Glucose Intolerance and Diabetes Mellitus

Treatment with somatropin may decrease insulin sensitivity, particularly at higher doses in susceptible patients. As a result, previously undiagnosed impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) and overt diabetes mellitus may be unmasked during somatropin treatment, and new onset type 2 diabetes mellitus has been reported in patients taking somatropin. Therefore, glucose levels should be monitored periodically in all patients treated with somatropin, especially in those with risk factors for diabetes, such as obesity, Turner syndrome (TS), or a family history of diabetes mellitus. Patients with preexisting type 1 or type 2 diabetes mellitus or IGT should be monitored closely during somatropin therapy. The doses of antihyperglycemic drugs (i.e. insulin or oral/injectable agents) may require adjustment when somatropin therapy is instituted in these patients.

5.5 Intracranial Hypertension

Intracranial Hypertension (IH) with papilledema, visual changes, headache, nausea, and/or vomiting has been reported in a small number of patients treated with somatropin products. Symptoms usually occurred within the first eight (8) weeks after the initiation of somatropin therapy. In all reported cases, IH-associated signs and symptoms rapidly resolved after cessation of therapy or a reduction of the somatropin dose. Funduscopic examination should be performed routinely before initiating treatment with somatropin to exclude pre-existing papilledema, and periodically during the course of somatropin therapy. If papilledema is observed by funduscopy during somatropin treatment, treatment should be stopped. If somatropin-induced IH is diagnosed, treatment with somatropin can be restarted at a lower dose after IH-associated signs and symptoms have resolved. Patients with TS, chronic kidney disease (CKD), and PWS may be at increased risk for the development of IH.

5.6 Fluid Retention

Fluid retention during somatropin replacement therapy in adults may occur. Clinical manifestations of fluid retention are usually transient and dose dependent.

5.7 Hypopituitarism

Patients with hypopituitarism (multiple hormone deficiencies) should have their other hormonal replacement treatments closely monitored during somatropin treatment.

5.8 Hypothyroidism

Undiagnosed/untreated hypothyroidism may prevent an optimal response to somatropin, in particular, the growth response in children. Patients with TS have an inherently increased risk of developing autoimmune thyroid disease and primary hypothyroidism. In patients with GHD, central (secondary) hypothyroidism may first become evident or worsen during somatropin treatment. Therefore, patients treated with somatropin should have periodic thyroid function tests and thyroid hormone replacement therapy should be initiated or appropriately adjusted when indicated.

5.9 Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis (SCFE) in Pediatric Patients

SCFE may occur more frequently in patients with endocrine disorders (including GHD and TS) or in patients undergoing rapid growth. Any pediatric patient with the onset of a limp or complaints of hip or knee pain during somatropin therapy should be carefully evaluated.

5.10 Progression of Preexisting Scoliosis in Pediatric Patients

Progression of scoliosis can occur in patients who experience rapid growth. Because somatropin increases growth rate, patients with a history of scoliosis who are treated with somatropin should be monitored for progression of scoliosis. However, somatropin has not been shown to increase the occurrence of scoliosis. Skeletal abnormalities including scoliosis are commonly seen in untreated TS patients. Scoliosis is also commonly seen in untreated patients with PWS. Physicians should be alert to these abnormalities, which may manifest during somatropin therapy.

5.11 Otitis Media and Cardiovascular Disorders in Patients with Turner Syndrome

Patients with TS should be evaluated carefully for otitis media and other ear disorders, as these patients have an increased risk of ear and hearing disorders. Somatropin treatment may increase the occurrence of otitis media in patients with TS. In addition, patients with TS should be monitored closely for cardiovascular disorders (e.g., hypertension, aortic aneurysm or dissection, stroke) as these patients are also at increased risk for these conditions.

5.12 Chronic Kidney Disease in Pediatric Patients

Children with growth failure secondary to CKD should be examined periodically for evidence of progression of renal osteodystrophy. SCFE or avascular necrosis of the femoral head may be seen in children with advanced renal osteodystrophy, and it is uncertain whether these problems are affected by somatropin therapy. X-rays of the hip should be obtained prior to initiating somatropin therapy in CKD patients and physicians and parents should be alert to the development of a limp or complaints of hip or knee pain in these patients treated with Nutropin AQ. No studies have been completed evaluating Nutropin AQ therapy in patients who have received renal transplants. Currently, treatment of patients with functioning renal allografts is not indicated.

5.13 Local and Systemic Reactions

When somatropin is administered subcutaneously at the same site over a long period of time, tissue atrophy may result. This can be avoided by rotating the injection site *[see Dosage and Administration (2.3)]*. As with any protein, local or systemic allergic reactions may occur. Parents/patients should be informed that such reactions are possible and that prompt medical attention should be sought if allergic reactions occur.

5.14 Laboratory Tests

Serum levels of inorganic phosphorus, alkaline phosphatase, and parathyroid hormone (PTH), and IGF-1 may increase during somatropin therapy.

5.15 Pancreatitis

Cases of pancreatitis have been reported rarely in children and adults receiving somatropin treatment, with some evidence supporting a greater risk in children compared with adults. Published literature indicates that girls who have TS may be at greater risk than other somatropin-treated children. Pancreatitis should be considered in any somatropin-treated patient, especially a child, who develops persistent severe abdominal pain.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

Additional short-term immunologic and renal function studies were carried out in a group of pediatric patients with CKD after approximately one year of treatment to detect other potential adverse effects of antibodies to GH. Testing included measurements of C1q, C3, C4, rheumatoid factor, creatinine, creatinine clearance, and blood urea nitrogen (BUN). No adverse effects of GH antibodies were noted.

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

7.1 11β-Hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase Type 1 (11βHSD-1)

The microsomal enzyme 11βHSD-1 is required for conversion of cortisone to its active metabolite, cortisol, in hepatic and adipose tissue. Growth hormone (GH) and somatropin inhibit 11βHSD-1. Consequently, individuals with untreated GH deficiency have relative increases in 11βHSD-1 and serum cortisol. Introduction of somatropin treatment may result in inhibition of 11βHSD-1 and reduced serum cortisol concentrations. As a consequence, previously undiagnosed central (secondary) hypoadrenalism may be unmasked and glucocorticoid replacement may be required in patients treated with somatropin. In addition, patients treated with glucocorticoid replacement for previously diagnosed hypoadrenalism may require an increase in their maintenance or stress doses following initiation of somatropin treatment; this may be especially true for patients treated with cortisone acetate and prednisone since conversion of these drugs to their biologically active metabolites is dependent on the activity of 11βHSD-1.

7.2 Pharmacologic Glucocorticoid Therapy and Supraphysiologic Glucocorticoid Treatment

Pharmacologic glucocorticoid therapy and supraphysiologic glucocorticoid treatment may attenuate the growth-promoting effects of somatropin in children. Therefore, glucocorticoid replacement therapy should be carefully adjusted in children with concomitant GH and glucocorticoid deficiency to avoid both hypoadrenalism and an inhibitory effect on growth.

The use of Nutropin AQ in patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) requiring glucocorticoid therapy has not been evaluated. Concomitant glucocorticoid therapy may inhibit the growth promoting effect of Nutropin AQ. Therefore, if glucocorticoid replacement is required for CKD, the glucocorticoid dose should be carefully adjusted to avoid an inhibitory effect on growth. In the clinical trials there was no evidence of drug interactions with Nutropin and commonly used drugs used in the management of CKD.

7.3 Cytochrome P450 (CYP450)-Metabolized Drugs

Limited published data indicate that somatropin treatment increases CYP450-mediated antipyrine clearance in man. These data suggest that somatropin administration may alter the clearance of compounds known to be metabolized by CYP450 liver enzymes (e.g., corticosteroids, sex steroids, anticonvulsants, cyclosporine). Careful monitoring is advisable when somatropin is administered in combination with other drugs known to be metabolized by CYP450 liver enzymes. However, formal drug interaction studies have not been conducted.

7.4 Oral Estrogen

Because oral estrogens may reduce insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1) response to somatropin treatment, girls and women receiving oral estrogen replacement may require greater somatropin dosages [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.2)].

7.5 Insulin and/or Oral/Injectable Hypoglycemic Agents

In patients with diabetes mellitus requiring drug therapy, the dose of insulin and/or oral/injectable hypoglycemic agents may require adjustment when somatropin therapy is initiated [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.4)].

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category C. Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with Nutropin AQ. It is also not known whether Nutropin AQ can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. Nutropin AQ should be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed.

8.3 Nursing Mothers

There have been no studies conducted with Nutropin AQ in nursing mothers. It is not known whether Nutropin AQ is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when Nutropin AQ is administered to a nursing mother.

8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of Nutropin AQ did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Elderly patients may be more sensitive to the action of somatropin, and therefore may be more prone to develop adverse reactions. A lower starting dose and smaller dose increments should be considered for older patients [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.2)].

8.6 Hepatic Impairment

No studies have been conducted for Nutropin AQ in patients with hepatic impairment. [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)].

8.7 Renal Impairment

Subjects with chronic renal failure tend to have decreased somatropin clearance compared to those with normal renal function. [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.1) and *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)].

8.8 Gender Effect

No gender-specific pharmacokinetic studies have been done with Nutropin AQ. The available literature indicates that the pharmacokinetics of somatropin are similar in men and women.

10 OVERDOSAGE

Short Term

Short-term overdosage could lead initially to hypoglycemia and subsequently to hyperglycemia. Furthermore, overdose with somatropin is likely to cause fluid retention.

Long Term

Long-term overdosage could result in signs and symptoms of gigantism and/or acromegaly consistent with the known effects of excess growth hormone (GH) [See *Dosage and Administration* (2.2)].

11 DESCRIPTION

Nutropin AQ [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] is a human growth hormone (hGH) produced by recombinant DNA technology. Nutropin AQ has 191 amino acid residues and a molecular weight of 22,125 daltons. The amino acid sequence of the product is identical to that of pituitary-derived hGH. Nutropin AQ may contain not more than fifteen percent deamidated GH at expiration. The deamidated form of GH has been extensively characterized and has been shown to be safe and fully active.

Nutropin AQ is a sterile liquid intended for subcutaneous administration. The product is nearly isotonic at a concentration of 5 mg of GH per mL and has a pH of approximately 6.0. Each vial, pen cartridge or NuSpin contain either 5 mg, 10 mg or 20 mg of somatropin formulated in 17.4 mg sodium chloride, 5 mg phenol, 4 mg polysorbate 20, and 10 mM sodium citrate [See *How Supplied/Storage and Handling* (16)].

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

Somatropin (as well as endogenous growth hormone) binds to dimeric growth hormone receptors located within the cell membranes of target tissue cells resulting in intracellular signal transduction and a host of pharmacodynamic effects. Some of these pharmacodynamic effects are primarily mediated by insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1) produced in the liver and also locally (e.g., skeletal growth, protein synthesis), while others are primarily a consequence of the direct effects of somatropin (e.g., lipolysis) [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.2)].

12.2 Pharmacodynamics

In vitro and in vivo preclinical and clinical testing have demonstrated that Nutropin AQ is therapeutically equivalent to pituitary-derived hGH. Pediatric patients who lack adequate endogenous growth hormone (GH) secretion, patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD), and patients with Turner syndrome (TS) that were treated with Nutropin AQ or Nutropin resulted in an increase in growth rate and an increase in IGF-1 levels similar to that seen with pituitary-derived hGH.

Tissue Growth

A) **Skeletal Growth:** Nutropin AQ stimulates skeletal growth in pediatric patients with growth failure due to a lack of adequate secretion of endogenous GH or secondary to CKD and in patients with TS. Skeletal growth is accomplished at the epiphyseal plates at the ends of a growing bone. Growth and metabolism of epiphyseal plate cells are directly stimulated by GH and one of its mediators, IGF-1. Serum levels of IGF-1 are low in children and adolescents who are GHD, but increase during treatment with somatropin. In pediatric patients, new bone is formed at the epiphyses in response to GH and IGF-1. This results in linear growth until these growth plates fuse at the end of puberty.

B) **Cell Growth:** Treatment with somatropin results in an increase in both the number and the size of skeletal muscle cells.

C) **Organ Growth:** GH influences the size of internal organs, including kidneys, and increases red cell mass. Treatment of hypophysectomized or genetic dwarf rats with somatropin results in organ growth that is proportional to the overall body growth. In normal rats subjected to nephrectomy-induced uremia, somatropin promoted skeletal and body growth.

Protein Metabolism

Linear growth is facilitated in part by GH-stimulated protein synthesis. This is reflected by nitrogen retention as demonstrated by a decline in urinary nitrogen excretion and blood urea nitrogen (BUN) during somatropin therapy.

Carbohydrate Metabolism

GH is a modulator of carbohydrate metabolism. For example, patients with inadequate secretion of GH sometimes experience fasting hypoglycemia that is improved by treatment with Nutropin AQ. Somatropin therapy may decrease insulin sensitivity. Untreated patients with CKD and TS have an increased incidence of glucose intolerance. Administration of somatropin to adults or children resulted in increases in serum fasting and postprandial insulin levels, more commonly in overweight or obese individuals. In addition, mean fasting and postprandial glucose and hemoglobin A1C levels remained in the normal range.

Lipid Metabolism

In GHD patients, administration of somatropin resulted in lipid mobilization, reduction in body fat stores, increased plasma fatty acids, and decreased plasma cholesterol levels.

Mineral Metabolism

The retention of total body potassium in response to somatropin administration apparently results from cellular growth. Serum levels of inorganic phosphorus may increase slightly in patients with inadequate secretion of endogenous GH, CKD, or TS during Nutropin AQ therapy due to metabolic

activity associated with bone growth as well as increased tubular reabsorption of phosphate by the kidney. Serum calcium is not significantly altered in these patients. Sodium retention also occurs. Adults with childhood-onset GHD show low bone mineral density (BMD). Nutropin AQ therapy results in increases in serum alkaline phosphatase [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.14)].

Connective Tissue Metabolism

GH stimulates the synthesis of chondroitin sulfate and collagen as well as the urinary excretion of hydroxyproline.

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Absorption

The absolute bioavailability of somatropin after subcutaneous administration in healthy adult males has been determined to be 81±20%. The mean terminal t_{1/2} after subcutaneous administration is significantly longer than that seen after intravenous administration (2.1±0.43 hours vs. 19.5±3.1 minutes) indicating that the subcutaneous absorption of the compound is slow and rate-limiting.

Distribution

Animal studies with somatropin showed that GH localizes to highly perfused organs, particularly the liver and kidney. The volume of distribution at steady state for somatropin in healthy adult males is about 50 mL/kg body weight, approximating the serum volume.

Metabolism

Both the liver and kidney have been shown to be important metabolizing organs for GH. Animal studies suggest that the kidney is the dominant organ of clearance. GH is filtered at the glomerulus and reabsorbed in the proximal tubules. It is then cleaved within renal cells into its constituent amino acids, which return to the systemic circulation.

Elimination

The mean terminal t_{1/2} after intravenous administration of somatropin in healthy adult males is estimated to be 19.5±3.1 minutes. Clearance of rhGH after intravenous administration in healthy adults and children is reported to be in the range of 116–174 mL/hr/kg.

Bioequivalence of Formulations

Nutropin AQ has been determined to be bioequivalent to Nutropin based on the statistical evaluation of area under the curve (AUC) and maximum concentration (C_{max}).

Special Populations

Pediatric: Available literature data suggests that somatropin clearances are similar in adults and children.

Geriatrics: Limited published data suggest that the plasma clearance and average steady-state plasma concentration of somatropin may not be different between young and elderly patients.

Race: Reported values for half-lives for endogenous GH in normal adult black males are not different from observed values for normal adult white males. No data for other races are available.

Growth Hormone Deficiency: Reported values for clearance of somatropin in adults and children with GHD range 138–245 mL/hr/kg and are similar to those observed in healthy adults and children. Mean terminal t_{1/2} values following intravenous and subcutaneous administration in adult and pediatric GHD patients are also similar to those observed in healthy adult males.

Chronic Kidney Disease: Children and adults with CKD and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) tend to have decreased clearance compared to normals. In a study with six pediatric patients 7 to 11 years of age, the clearance of Nutropin was reduced by 21.5% and 22.6% after the intravenous infusion and subcutaneous injection, respectively, of 0.05 mg/kg of Nutropin compared to normal healthy adults. Endogenous GH production may also increase in some individuals with ESRD. However, no somatropin accumulation has been reported in children with CKD or ESRD dosed with current regimens.

Turner Syndrome: No pharmacokinetic data are available for exogenously administered somatropin. However, reported half-lives, absorption, and elimination rates for endogenous GH in this population are similar to the ranges observed for normal subjects and GHD populations.

Hepatic Insufficiency: A reduction in somatropin clearance has been noted in patients with severe liver dysfunction. The clinical significance of this decrease is unknown.

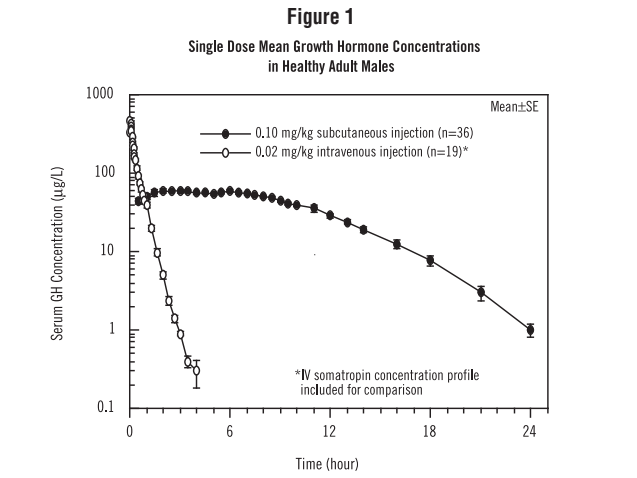
Gender: No gender-specific pharmacokinetic studies have been done with Nutropin AQ. The available literature indicates that the pharmacokinetics of somatropin are similar in men and women.

Table 2					
Summary of Nutropin AQ Pharmacokinetic Parameters in Healthy Adult Males 0.1 mg (approximately 0.3 IU) ^a /kg SC					
	C _{max} (µg/L)	T _{max} (hr)	t _{1/2} (hr)	AUC _{0-∞} (µg · hr/L)	CL/F _{sc} (mL/(hr · kg))
MEAN ^b	71.1	3.9	2.3	677	150
CV ^c %	17	56	18	13	13

^aBased on current International Standard of 3 IU = 1 mg.

^bn=36.

Abbreviations: AUC_{0-∞}=area under the curve, C_{max}=maximum concentration, CL/F_{sc}=systemic clearance following SC administration, CV%=coefficient of variation in %; SC=subcutaneous, F_{sc}=subcutaneous bioavailability (not determined), t_{1/2}=half-life.



13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, and reproduction studies have not been conducted with Nutropin AQ.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

14.1 Pubertal Patients with Growth Hormone Deficiency (GHD)

One open label, multicenter, randomized clinical trial of two dosages of Nutropin was performed in pubertal patients with GHD. Ninety-seven patients (mean age 13.9 years, 83 male, 14 female) currently being treated with approximately 0.3 mg/kg/wk of GH were randomized to 0.3 mg/kg/wk or 0.7 mg/kg/wk Nutropin doses. All patients were already in puberty (Tanner stage ≥2) and had bone ages ≤14 years in males or ≤12 years in females. Mean baseline height standard deviation score (SDS) was –1.3.

The mean last measured height in all 97 patients after a mean duration of 2.7±1.2 years, by analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) adjusting for baseline height, is shown below.

Table 3				
Last Measured Height* by Sex and Nutropin Dose for Pubertal Patients with GHD				
	Last Measured Height* (cm)			Height Difference Between Groups (cm)
	Age (yr)	0.3 mg/kg/wk	0.7 mg/kg/wk	
	Mean±SD (range)	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	Mean±SE
Male	17.2±1.3 (13.6 to 19.4)	170.9±7.9 (n=42)	174.5±7.9 (n=41)	3.6±1.7
Female	15.8±1.8 (11.9 to 19.3)	154.7±6.3 (n=7)	157.6±6.3 (n=7)	2.9±3.4

* Adjusted for baseline height

The mean height SDS at last measured height (n=97) was –0.7±1.0 in the 0.3 mg/kg/wk group and –0.1±1.2 in the 0.7 mg/kg/wk group. For patients completing 3.5 or more years (mean 4.1 years) of Nutropin treatment (15/49 patients in the 0.3 mg/kg/wk group and 16/48 patients in the 0.7 mg/kg/wk group), the mean last measured height was 166.1±8.0 cm in the 0.3 mg/kg/wk group and 171.8±7.1 cm in the 0.7 mg/kg/wk group, adjusting for baseline height and sex.

The mean change in bone age was approximately one year for each year in the study in both dose groups. Patients with baseline height SDS above –1.0 were able to attain normal adult heights with the 0.3 mg/kg/wk dose of Nutropin (mean height SDS at near-adult height =–0.1, n=15).

Thirty-one patients had bone mineral density (BMD) determined by dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) scans at study conclusion. The two dose groups did not differ significantly in mean SDS for total body BMD (–0.9±1.9 in the 0.3 mg/kg/wk group vs. –0.8±1.2 in the 0.7 mg/kg/wk group, n=20) or lumbar spine BMD (–1.0±1.0 in the 0.3 mg/kg/wk group vs. –0.2±1.7 in the 0.7 mg/kg/wk group, n=21).

Over a mean duration of 2.7 years, patients in the 0.7 mg/kg/wk group were more likely to have IGF-1 values above the normal range than patients in the 0.3 mg/kg/wk group (27.7% vs. 9.0% of IGF-1 measurements for individual patients). The clinical significance of elevated IGF-1 values is unknown.

14.2 Pediatric Patients with Growth Failure Secondary to Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

Two multicenter, randomized, controlled clinical trials were conducted to determine whether treatment with Nutropin prior to renal transplantation in patients with CKD could improve their growth rates and height deficits. One study was a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial and the other was an open-label, randomized trial. The dose of Nutropin in both controlled studies was 0.05 mg/kg/day (0.35 mg/kg/week) administered daily by subcutaneous injection. Combining the data from those patients completing two years in the two controlled studies results in 62 patients treated with Nutropin and 28 patients in the control groups (either placebo-treated or untreated). The mean first year growth rate was 10.8 cm/yr for Nutropin-treated patients, compared with a mean growth rate of 6.5 cm/yr for placebo/untreated controls (p<0.00005). The mean

second year growth rate was 7.8 cm/yr for the Nutropin-treated group, compared with 5.5 cm/yr for controls (p<0.00005). There was a significant increase in mean height SDS in the Nutropin group (–2.9 at baseline to –1.5 at Month 24, n=62) but no significant change in the controls (–2.8 at baseline to –2.9 at Month 24, n = 28). The mean third year growth rate of 7.6 cm/yr in the Nutropin-treated patients (n=27) suggests that Nutropin stimulates growth beyond two years. However, there are no control data for the third year because control patients crossed over to Nutropin treatment after two years of participation. The gains in height were accompanied by appropriate advancement of skeletal age. These data demonstrate that Nutropin therapy improves growth rate and corrects the acquired height deficit associated with CKD.

The North American Pediatric Renal Transplant Cooperative Study (NAPRTCS) has reported data for growth post-transplant in children who did not receive GH prior to transplantation as well as children who did receive Nutropin during the clinical trials prior to transplantation. The average change in height SDS during the initial two years post-transplant was 0.15 for the 2,391 patients who did not receive GH pre-transplant and 0.28 for the 57 patients who did¹. For patients who were followed for 5 years post-transplant, the corresponding changes in height SDS were also similar between groups.

14.3 Pediatric Patients with Turner Syndrome (TS)

Three US studies, two long-term, open-label, multicenter, historically controlled studies (Studies 1 and 2), and one long-term, randomized, dose-response study (Study 3) and one Canadian, long-term, randomized, open-label, multicenter, concurrently controlled study, were conducted to evaluate the efficacy of somatropin treatment of short stature due to TS.

In the US Studies 1 and 2, the effect of long-term GH treatment (0.375 mg/kg/week given either 3 times per week or daily) on adult height was determined by comparing adult heights in the treated patients with those of age-matched historical controls with TS who received no growth-promoting therapy. In Study 1, estrogen treatment was delayed until patients were at least age 14. GH therapy resulted in a mean adult height gain of 7.4 cm (mean duration of GH therapy of 7.6 years) vs. matched historical controls by ANCOVA.

In Study 2, patients treated with early Nutropin therapy (before 11 years of age) were randomized to receive estrogen-replacement therapy (conjugated estrogens, 0.3 mg escalating to 0.625 mg daily) at either age 12 or 15 years. Compared with matched historical controls, early Nutropin therapy (mean duration of 5.6 years) combined with estrogen replacement at age 12 years resulted in an adult height gain of 5.9 cm (n=26), whereas girls who initiated estrogen at age 15 years (mean duration of Nutropin therapy 6.1 years) had a mean adult height gain of 8.3 cm (n=29). Patients who initiated Nutropin after age 11 (mean age 12.7 years; mean duration of Nutropin therapy 3.8 years) had a mean adult height gain of 5.0 cm (n=51).

Thus, in Studies 1 and 2, the greatest improvement in adult height was observed in patients who received early GH treatment and estrogen after age 14 years.

In Study 3, a randomized, blinded dose-response study, patients were treated from a mean age of 11.1 years for a mean duration of 5.3 years with a weekly GH dose of either 0.27 mg/kg or 0.36 mg/kg administered in divided doses 3 or 6 times weekly. The mean near-final height of GH treated patients was 148.7±6.5 cm (n=31). When compared to historical control data, the mean gain in adult height was approximately 5 cm.

The Canadian randomized study compared near-adult height outcomes for GH-treated patients to those of a concurrent control group who received no injections. The somatropin-treated patients received a dosage of 0.3 mg/kg/week given in divided doses 6 times per week from a mean age of 11.7 years for a mean duration of 4.7 years. Puberty was induced with a standardized estrogen regimen initiated at 13 years of age for both treatment groups. The somatropin-treated group (n=27) attained a mean (±SD) near final height of 146.0±6.2 cm; the untreated control group (n=19) attained a near final height of 142.1±4.8 cm. By ANCOVA (with adjustments for baseline height and mid-parental height), the effect of GH-treatment was a mean height increase of 5.4 cm (p=0.001).

In summary, patients with TS (total n=181 from the 4 studies above) treated to adult height achieved statistically significant average height gains ranging from 5.0–8.3 cm.

Table 4							
Summary of Efficacy Results in Turner Syndrome ^a							
Study	Group	N at Adult Design ^b	GH Height (cm)	Estrogen Age (yr)	GH Duration (yr)	Adult Height Gain (cm) ^c	
US 1		MHT	17	9.1	15.2	7.6	7.4
US 2	A*	MHT	29	9.4	15.0	6.1	8.3
	B*		26	9.6	12.3	5.6	5.9
	C*		51	12.7	13.7	3.8	5.0
US 3		RDT	31	11.1	8–13.5	5.3	–5 ^d
Canadian		RCT	27	11.7	13	4.7	5.4

^a Data shown are mean values.

^b RCT: randomized controlled trial; MHT: matched historical controlled trial;

^c RDT: randomized dose-response trial.

^d Analysis of covariance vs. controls.