

ConsumerRx[®]

Growth Hormone

What is growth hormone?

Growth hormone is a naturally occurring hormone in the body, produced by the pituitary gland. It controls growth, muscle development, metabolism and body fat levels. In addition, growth hormone may be used as a medication.

When is growth hormone used as a medication?

Growth hormone replacement therapy is mostly used in children when tests indicate a lack of the hormone in the body. Growth hormone can also be used in patients with Turner's Syndrome or a few other conditions. Use of growth hormone in adults is rarely needed.

How do you take growth hormone?

Growth hormone products are self-injected, once daily or a few times a week.

Are there differences between products?

All growth hormone products contain the same medication and are similar in safety and effectiveness. The products differ in how the medication is prepared and injected.

What are my options for growth hormone deficiency therapy?

Your options include:

Preferred Brand Medication:

Nutropin[®]
Nutropin AQ[®]
Saizen[®]

Non – Preferred Brand Medications:

Genotropin[®] Norditropin[®]
Humatrope[®] Serostim[®]
Omnitrope[®] Tev-Tropin[®]

Why are Nutropin and Saizen preferred?

Nutropin and Saizen are simple to prepare and inject. They also cover the widest range of patients needs, including needle-free technology:

- Nutropin uses a traditional vial and syringe, or comes with pre-filled cartridges and pen injector.
- Saizen has two delivery devices, an autoinjector and a pen, offering needle-free technology.

	Already mixed (Liquid Form)	Needle Free Technology	Refrigeration Required	Days to Use after Opening
Nutropin AQ	√		√	28
Saizen		√	√	14

THE BOTTOM LINE

Growth hormone products are equally safe and effective. When growth hormone replacement therapy is needed, Nutropin and Saizen are the preferred choices because they cover most patients needs.

Note: Since many medication options are available, our physicians and pharmacists developed this to provide you with information about the available alternatives, as well as potential advantages and lack of advantages of the various products. This medication summary was developed based upon an evaluation of information from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), scientific studies, and input from practicing doctors and specialists.

