

# Somatropin

*soe-ma-TROE-pin*

**Brand Name:** Genotropin, Serostim

**Drug Class:** Opportunistic Infection and Other Drugs

Somatropin, also known as Genotropin or Serostim, is a type of medicine called a synthetic human growth hormone. It is a man-made version of growth hormone, a substance that stimulates growth of the long bones in the arms and legs by affecting growth of cartilage, bone, and muscle cells. It also increases the size of body organs and increases the number of red blood cells.

## HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Somatropin was approved by the FDA on August 23, 1996, for use with antiretroviral agents in the treatment of wasting syndrome (progressive and unintended loss of more than 10% of body weight) in HIV infection. Somatropin is being studied in HIV infected patients to see if it can improve the body's immune response and slow the progress of HIV infection.

This medicine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

## Dosage Form/Administration

Somatropin comes in powder form that is mixed with diluent and is injected under the skin.

## Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

## Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, somatropin can cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of this medicine include ear disorders; skin rash or itching; changes in vision; headache, nausea, and vomiting; swelling of optic nerve; pain and swelling at site of injection; abdominal pain or swelling of the stomach; and limp or pain in hip or knees. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have symptoms of any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include mild but temporary wrist pain; enlargement of breasts; increased growth of birthmarks; joint pain or muscle pain; swelling of hands, feet, or

lower legs; and unusual tiredness or weakness. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

## Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

## Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Somatropin, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Somatropin AND HIV Infections.

## Manufacturer Information

Somatropin  
Serono Inc.  
One Technology Place  
Rockland, MA 02370  
(800) 283-8088

Serostim  
Serono Inc.  
One Technology Place  
Rockland, MA 02370  
(800) 283-8088

Genotropin  
Pharmacia Corporation  
100 Route 206 North  
Peapack, NJ 07977  
(888) 768-5501

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## **For More Information**

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Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: [http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live\\_help](http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help) Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET