

# METASTRON™

Strontium[<sup>89</sup>Sr] Chloride Injection

## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about METASTRON. It does not contain all the available information, nor does it take the place of talking to your doctor or treatment provider.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you being treated with METASTRON against the expected benefits.

**If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your doctor or nuclear medicine technologist giving you METASTRON.**

**Keep this leaflet.**

You may need to read it again.

### What METASTRON is used for

METASTRON contains strontium Sr-89, which sends out radioactive radiation for some time also known as a radionuclide or radioisotope. Radionuclide agents may be used in low doses to help diagnose certain conditions. When given in higher doses, some radionuclides can be used as treatments for certain conditions, as is the case with METASTRON.

The purpose of METASTRON is to relieve bone pain that is caused by prostate cancer. METASTRON is a bone-seeking substance which delivers most of the radiation to the painful bone lesions and spares other organs. Therefore it will not relieve tumour pain outside the bone and it is not a cure for cancer .

It may take about 10 to 20 days after a dose of METASTRON before you feel any relief of pain. Sometimes the pain flares up for a few days after you have received METASTRON. You will then be given pain killers.

### Before you are given METASTRON

#### **When you must not be given it**

**You must not be given METASTRON if you have:**

- Severe problems with your bone marrow which cause the blood to contain very low levels of some types of white blood cells (which help fight infection) or platelets (which control blood clotting).

METASTRON is also not suitable as a major treatment where there is pressure on your spinal cord from a tumour or bony fragment of spine.

#### **Before you are given it**

**Your doctor must know about all of the following before you are given METASTRON. Tell your doctor if you:**

- 1. have allergies to:**
  - any other medicines
  - any other substances, such as foods, substances to maintain food quality or freshness (preservatives) or colourants (dyes).
  - any of the ingredients of METASTRON listed at the end of this leaflet.
- 2. have, or have had any medical conditions, especially:**

- severe kidney disease or
  - any problems controlling your bladder
  - problems with your blood (eg blood cell counts) caused by disease or a previous medical treatment
- 3. plan to have surgery**
  - 4. have had any previous chemotherapy or radiotherapy, particularly in the last 12 weeks or,**
  - 5. previously have received METASTRON or another type of bone-seeking radiopharmaceutical or medicines called cytotoxic agents which are used to treat cancer.**

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you are given METASTRON.**

#### **Taking other medicines**

**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines may interfere with the absorption of METASTRON or should not be given at the same time as METASTRON. These include:

- calcium containing medicines taken in the last two (2) weeks
- cytotoxic agents used within the last twelve (12) weeks to treat cancer.

Your doctor or treatment provider has more information on medicines to be careful with or to avoid when you are given METASTRON.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you are given any METASTRON.**

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## How METASTRON is given

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**Your doctor may have special instructions for you to follow to get ready for your treatment. If you have any questions, ask your doctor.**

METASTRON is given as an injection into a vein. METASTRON must only be given by a doctor or nuclear medicine technologist who is licensed to use an unsealed source.

Your doctor will decide what dose of METASTRON you will receive, depending on your condition and other factors, such as your weight and results of blood tests.

METASTRON is usually given as a single dose. A repeat dose may be required sometimes in three (3) months, but usually in more than six (6) months, depending on how you recover.

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## After being given METASTRON

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### ***Things you must do***

**If you are about to start taking any new medicine, tell your doctor (and pharmacist as appropriate) that you have been given METASTRON.**

### ***Things to be careful of***

METASTRON is eliminated from the body in the urine and faeces (stools). **Therefore, for 2 weeks after treatment you will need to take special care to prevent contamination of clothing, bed linen and the environment. Follow these steps:**

- **use a normal toilet** instead of a urinal

- **flush the toilet twice** after using
- **wipe any spilled urine with a tissue** and flush away
- **wash your hands** after using or cleaning the toilet
- **wash your clothes and bed linen immediately** if they become soiled with urine, stools or blood. **Wash them separately from other clothes**
- **wash away any blood** if you cut or injure yourself

### ***Things that may help your condition***

METASTRON can temporarily lower the number of white blood cells in your blood, and this can increase your chances of getting an infection.

It can also lower the number of platelets in your blood, which are necessary for proper blood clotting. If you are told that your blood counts become abnormally low, there are certain precautions you can take to reduce the risk of infection or bleeding:

- **avoid people with infections**
- **be careful when using a toothbrush, toothpick or dental floss**
- **wash your hands** before and after you touch your eyes or the inside of your nose
- **be careful not to cut yourself** when using a razor or other sharp objects
- **avoid contact sports** or other situations where injury or bruising could occur.

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## Side effects

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Some people experience a temporary increase in pain some time in the first few days after being given METASTRON. This is usually mild and can be managed by pain killers.

Your doctor will do blood tests regularly because the most common side effect after METASTRON

therapy is a fall in the number of white blood cells and/or platelets. In some cases, especially where patients have received chemotherapy or radiotherapy, the fall may be severe and may require a blood transfusion. **Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:**

- any type of infection eg. sore throat, cough or chest infection (as this may be a sign of pneumonia)
- fever
- skin rash or sores on the body
- hot flush
- bruising
- bleeding from nose or gums,
- visual disturbances or headache, nausea and/or vomiting
- blood in the urine or bowel movements

These may be serious side effects of METASTRON. You may need urgent medical attention.

**Occasionally other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.** Do not be alarmed by this list of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

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## Overdose

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The dose of METASTRON you will receive will be calculated by a qualified nuclear medicine doctor and given to you in a highly specialised setting by either the doctor or nuclear medicine technologist. Therefore the possibility of overdose is minimal.

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## Storage

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**METASTRON will be stored by the hospital or clinic.**

The hospital or clinic will make sure that METASTRON is not be used if the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.

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## **Further information**

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This is not all the information that is available on METASTRON. If you have any more questions or are not sure about anything, ask your doctor, or treatment provider.

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## **Product description**

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### ***Ingredients***

Each 4mL vial contains strontium chloride  $^{89}\text{Sr}$  (43.6-90.4 mg) in sterile water for injections

Australian Registration Number:  
AUST R 42958

### ***Sponsor***

METASTRON is made in England and supplied in Australia by:

GE Healthcare Australia Pty Ltd  
32 Phillip St  
Parramatta NSW 2150

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