

Are there any side effects?

As Synvisc is injected directly into the knee joint, clinical studies show it does not cause general harmful reactions. In fact, Synvisc offers safer, more effective management of OA than some traditional therapies.⁵

However, before you begin your treatment with Synvisc, you should advise your doctor if you are allergic to feathers, eggs, poultry or have ever had an allergic reaction to hyaluronan products.⁶

Please speak to your doctor if after treatment with Synvisc, you experience any symptoms that concern you.

Genzyme advises you to always seek advice from your medical practitioner in regards to your treatment with Synvisc. If you would like further information on Synvisc, please see the Synvisc Product Information Insert.

If you have any questions about Synvisc or Osteoarthritis, please talk to your doctor. Don't forget to ask about the 'Track Your Changes' Synvisc Kit.

References:

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4. Conrozier T. Viscosupplementation for the Treatment of Knee and Hip Osteoarthritis Pain – Recent Evidence and Considerations for Clinical Practice. *Future Directions in Surgery* 2006;91-95
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SYNVISC
HYLAN G-F 20

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Patient Guide to Synvisc Treatment

Treatment for pain associated with
Osteoarthritis of the knee⁶



SYNVISC
HYLAN G-F 20

Synvisc

As someone with osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee, you know only too well the pain and impact these symptoms can have on your life.

What started with a little twinge in the knee, and progressed to ongoing pain affects your mobility and makes even the simplest tasks increasingly difficult.

Although doctors and researchers are yet to find a cure for osteoarthritis, they have discovered a number of treatments and pain management programs to lessen the pain, improve mobility and make your life easier.¹

Treatment with Synvisc (Hylan G-F 20) offers a safe and effective option for pain associated with OA of the knee.^{2,3}

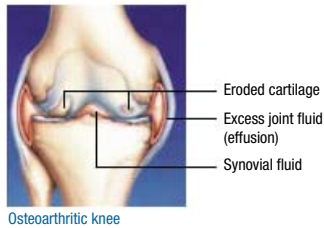
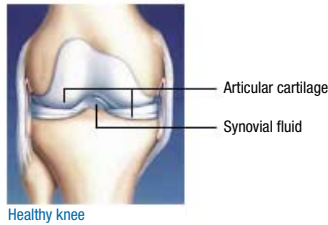
More than simply relieving pain, Synvisc temporarily replaces and supplements the deteriorated synovial fluid in your knee joint with a naturally derived lubricant closely resembling the fluid in healthy young knees.³

If you are considering further treatment for pain associated with OA of the knee, this information is designed to tell you more about Synvisc and how it works.

What is causing my symptoms?

A healthy knee can withstand the knocks, jolts and simple wear and tear of every day activities. As knee OA develops, the synovial fluid starts to deteriorate, causing pain and loss of function.¹

The primary function of synovial fluid in the knee joint is to protect the synovial tissue and cartilage from mechanical damage. At low levels of shear force (standing and walking for instance), synovial fluid has a lubricating effect. At high levels of shear force (running and jumping), synovial fluid has a shock absorbing effect in the knee.⁴



Synvisc addresses pain associated with knee OA by restoring the synovial fluid. It works safely without the need for drugs or surgery and has been proven highly effective in reducing pain, even at night, and increasing mobility in patients for up to 12 months.³

How does Synvisc work?

Synvisc is made of hylans, which are similar to the natural material found in healthy synovial fluid. During treatment, your diseased synovial fluid is removed and replaced with Synvisc through a process called viscosupplementation.⁶

Once injected, Synvisc absorbs shocks and lubricates while reducing sensitivity to pain and helping to restore the healthy mobility of the joint.⁶

Synvisc acts physically in the knee joint rather than chemically in the whole body. Therefore, Synvisc is not associated with side effects such as nausea and peptic ulcer commonly linked with oral anti-inflammatory medication.⁵

What does treatment with Synvisc involve?

Your doctor will examine your knee and remove any diseased synovial fluid if necessary. You will then receive one 2mL intra-articular injection of Synvisc into your knee, once a week for 3 consecutive weeks. It is very important you have each injection weekly for Synvisc to work properly.⁶



When can I resume my normal activities?

It is recommended that you rest your knee for a minimum of 24 hours after each injection.

You should have somebody drive you home after each injection and then rest, with your leg elevated occasionally, for the remainder of the day. It is important that you do not undertake any strenuous activities (i.e. sports) between your weekly injections. You can return to your normal level of activity a few days after you have received your third injection.⁶

Will I feel better straight away?

Some patients find they enjoy relief from their symptoms straight after the first injection, but the full benefits are usually felt 8 to 12

weeks after the treatment course is completed with efficacy lasting up to 12 months.^{2,7}

You can also take an active role in your Synvisc treatment with a special Synvisc Track Your Changes Kit, designed to help you get the most out of your treatment. The Kit has information on what to expect from Synvisc treatment and a chart to track your treatment for discussion with your doctor.

How effective is Synvisc?

Extensive clinical studies have shown Synvisc to be highly effective. In knee studies, over 80% of patients felt better or much better after their first course of Synvisc.^{5,8}

Will I have lasting relief from my symptoms?

While Synvisc is a highly effective treatment, Synvisc is not a cure for OA, and cannot relieve symptoms permanently. Many patients obtain benefit for up to 12 months² from a single course of Synvisc although the benefit gained varies from patient to patient. If your doctor thinks it is appropriate, you may safely have another course of Synvisc if your symptoms return.

