BRING THIS TO YOUR DOCTOR · GREY PEPTIDES

Ceruletide

Also called: Caerulein; Cerulein; Tymtran; Ceruletide diethylamine

What it is

A cholecystokinin-analogue peptide, formerly marketed as Tymtran for gastrointestinal diagnostics; discontinued in the US.

Approval status

Discontinued. Marketed in the US as Tymtran (ceruletide diethylamine), NDA 018296; Drugs@FDA (openFDA) lists it as discontinued and shows no original approval date, and DailyMed carries no label (read October 3, 2026).

Dosing, as printed in the page's Recommended Dosing box

Used in human trials

No manufacturer dose exists for this use: these are amounts given in published trials, not recommendations.

Protocol and source	Dose	Frequency	Duration	Route
Trial: ileus after abdominal surgery **[Human study]** PMID 2979233	2.5 ng/kg/min	Single infusion	1 hour	Intravenous
Study: gallbladder emptying test **[Human study]** PMID 8019351	0.3 µg/kg	Single dose	One test	Intramuscular

Educational information, not medical advice. Each dose above is tagged with its source: an approved label, a published human study, animal data, or amounts reported by users. None is a recommendation for you. An unapproved compound has no established safe or effective human dose, and products sold for "research use only" are not made or tested for people. Talk to a doctor before acting on anything on this site, including before you start, stop or change any medicine or dose.

Key human evidence

The first 3 of the 12 human studies carded on the page (16 study cards in all):

• **Ileus after abdominal surgery** (Human, 1988). In a double-blind trial of 91 patients, a one-hour ceruletide infusion after elective abdominal surgery brought audible bowel sounds in 42 of 47 against 30 of 44 on placebo, and more passed flatus by day 2-3 (22 of 45 against 9 of 44), at the cost of more short-lived nausea and vomiting. **PMID 2979233**

• **Biliary and renal colic against pentazocine** (Human, 1985). In a randomised double-blind study of 82 patients, intramuscular ceruletide (0.5 µg/kg) relieved biliary colic about as well as pentazocine with fewer side effects, but was significantly worse than pentazocine for renal colic. **PMID 3891284**

• **Experimental pain in healthy men** (Human, 1996). In a placebo-controlled crossover study in 25 healthy men, ceruletide raised the threshold for thermal pain at both doses, left ischaemic pain unchanged, and at the higher dose lowered tolerance for mechanical pain. **PMID 8737889**

Interactions

A PubMed search for interaction studies of this compound with any drug (October 5, 2026, 111 records) found none in people. That is not evidence that it is safe to combine with anything.

Side effects and cautions

Reported side effects	Contraindications and cautions
• Nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain • Rarely low blood pressure and fast heart rate	• Historical diagnostic use only in the US

Five questions to ask

1. Ceruletide is listed here as "Discontinued". What does the evidence on this sheet mean for someone in my situation, and is there an approved treatment I should consider instead?
2. Here are the medicines and supplements I take. Do any of them interact with Ceruletide? This sheet records none published, which does not mean none exist.
3. Which side effects should make me stop and call you, for example nausea?
4. Do any of the cautions on this sheet apply to me, such as: Historical diagnostic use only in the US?
5. What should we check before I start and while I am on it (blood tests, blood pressure, weight), and how often?

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