Melanotan II

Unapproved peptide · limited controlled evidence.



Guide prepared November 13, 2026 · profile review dates retained

KEEP IN MIND Evidence applies to the studied formulation, route, population and outcome—not every product sharing a name.

01 What is it?

Melanotan II is a synthetic melanocortin analog investigated for pigmentation and sexual effects. It is distinct from bremelanotide, the ingredient in approved Vyleesi. Activity at related receptors does not transfer another medicine’s approval, clinical evidence, or safety profile to Melanotan II. [1]

02 Potential benefits

Activates melanocortin pathways associated with pigmentation and sexual effects. Helped inform later melanocortin drug development. [1]

03 Evidence & its limits

The early trial was far too small to establish broad safety. FDA lists serious published adverse-event reports associated with Melanotan II, including priapism and neurological complications; case reports signal concern but do not establish how frequently an event occurs or prove causation. [1]

04 Risks & unknowns

Not FDA-approved. Associated with nausea, pigment changes, priapism, and uncertain product quality. [1]

05 Status & scope

It is distinct from bremelanotide, the ingredient in approved Vyleesi. Activity at related receptors does not transfer another medicine’s approval, clinical evidence, or safety profile to Melanotan II. Not FDA-approved. [1]

06 The question to ask

Does the evidence match the exact product, route, condition and outcome being discussed? Check the full record and its review dates. This summary is selective; the product label and clinical assessment contain additional warnings and contraindications.

SOURCES / Tap a reference to open

[1] Full evidence record, references and review dates
[2] Melanotan-II pilot phase I study, 1996
[3] FDA Drugs@FDA database
[4] FDA Melanotan II safety concerns

Selective educational summary, not treatment or dosing advice. Existing profile review dates retained; no independent clinical review.