

Medication Information Card - for Renal Patients

Alfacalcidol (Al – fah – cal – si – doll)

Other names for this medication

One-Alpha[®]

How this medication is used

This medication is a type of vitamin D. When you have renal failure, you need this form of vitamin D because it is not made in the body. Vitamin D keeps bones and teeth strong. It works by helping your body absorb calcium. When your body does not have enough vitamin D, your body may not be getting enough calcium.

This medication is also used to reduce the production of parathyroid hormone. This keeps the body's calcium and phosphorus levels in balance. The correct balance of calcium and phosphorus helps decrease problems with renal bone disease.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. This medication is taken every day by some patients. Other patients may take it 3 times a week after hemodialysis. It may be taken with or without meals.

This medication can also be taken as a capsule or liquid if you cannot swallow pills.

How to take this medication (continued)

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

While taking this medication you may notice

- headache
- nausea, vomiting
- weakness or tiredness

Contact your doctor if you notice

- dry mouth
- loss of appetite
- muscle pain