

CALCITRIOL

Other names: Calcitriol-AFT®, Calcitrol - Airflow®, Rocaltrol Solution®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medicine

Calcitriol is a Vitamin D derivative and is formed in the kidney. Calcitriol promotes absorption of calcium in food from the intestines which helps to regulate bone formation. In chronic kidney failure the production of calcitriol is decreased which may cause bone loss.

Calcitriol can be used in a number of conditions such as; osteoporosis (postmenopausal), rickets, corticosteroid (steroid) induced osteoporosis (where, for example, prednisone has been taken for a long time) and in patients with chronic kidney failure to maintain the calcium blood level.

When to take this medicine

Take the medicine as your doctor prescribed. The frequency of the dose may vary from every day to three times a week. This may depend on your calcium level in your blood.

If you miss a dose

Take as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

The side effects with calcitriol are very rare. However, if the following side effects occur, these may be the result of a high blood calcium level.

Therefore, call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- tiredness
- headache
- skin rash
- muscle weakness
- confusion
- sleepiness
- dry mouth, thirst
- fever

- decreased weight
- increased urinary frequency
- gastrointestinal effects (e.g. nausea, vomiting, constipation, stomach ache)

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any other side effect(s) from your medicine that are not mentioned here.

Other Medication

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medication including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Caution is required when calcitriol is taken with the following medicines:

- Thiazide diuretics (e.g. bendrofluazide) can increase calcium blood levels.
- Antacids (medicines for indigestion and heartburn) containing magnesium. Calcitriol should not be taken with these medicines as a higher calcium blood level could occur.
- Other calcium preparations (e.g. calcium carbonate) can increase calcium blood level.
- Phenytoin and phenobarbitone can increase the metabolism of calcitriol causing low Vitamin D levels.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.