

# PAMIDRONATE

**Other names:** Pamidronate BNM, Pamisol®



**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 medication

Pamidronate (pa-mi-DROE-nate) is a drug that is used to treat the increased amount of calcium in the blood (hypercalcaemia) that may occur with some kinds of cancer. It is also used to treat cancer that spreads into bones (bone metastases), in breast cancer and multiple myeloma. It is a clear liquid that is injected into a vein.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or allergic reaction to alendronate (Fosamax® or Fosamax Plus®), etidronate (Etidrate®) or zoledronic acid (Zometa®, Aclasta®) before starting pamidronate treatment.

Tell other doctors or dentists that you are being treated with pamidronate before you receive any treatment from them.

## Other medication

Other drugs may interact with pamidronate. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new medicines.

Alcohol (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of pamidronate.

## Pregnancy and breast feeding

It is best to use birth control while being treated with pamidronate. Pamidronate may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy.

Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.

Do not breast feed during treatment with pamidronate.

## 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*.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	WHAT TO DO
<b>Fever</b> may occur shortly after treatment with pamidronate. It should last no longer than 48 hours. Fever may occur together with some flu-like symptoms such as chills, tiredness, nausea and headache.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take paracetamol every 4-6 hours if needed to a maximum of 4 g (8 tablets) each day.</li> <li>• See your doctor if fever continues for more than 48 hours.</li> </ul>
<b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> </ul>
<b>Pain or tenderness</b> may occur where the needle was placed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.</li> </ul>
Problems with the <b>jaw bone</b> may rarely occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may be required to undergo a dental examination before starting treatment to help prevent these problems occurring.</li> <li>• Maintain good oral hygiene to reduce the risk of infection. Your cancer nurse can give advice on how to do this.</li> <li>• Ensure you maintain regular visits to your dentist during treatment.</li> <li>• Discuss the risks with your cancer doctor.</li> </ul>

**See your doctor as soon as possible (during office hours) if you have:**

- Signs of **low blood calcium** such as abdominal cramps, confusion and muscle spasms.
- Signs of **anaemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- **Pain in your mouth**, teeth or jaw.
- **Poor healing** of your gums or mouth after a dental procedure.

**Check with your doctor if any of the following continue or bother you:**

- Aches and pains.
- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting constipation or diarrhoea.
- Fever or headache not controlled with paracetamol.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores where the needle was placed.
- Eye irritation or changes in eye sight.

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