

Calcitriol (kal-si-TRI-ol):

Treats low blood calcium in kidney dialysis patients and other patients. Calcitriol is a form of vitamin D.

Brand Name(s): Rocaltrol®

When You Should Not Use this Medicine:

You should not use this medicine if you have ever had an allergic reaction to vitamin D.

How to Use and Store this Medicine

Capsules:

- Your doctor will tell you how much to take and how often.
- May be taken with or without food.
- Keep all medicine away from children.

If You Miss a Dose:

- Take the missed dose as soon as possible.
- Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next regular dose.
- You should not use two doses at the same time.

Drugs and Foods to Avoid:

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.

- If you are on dialysis, avoid magnesium-containing antacids (Maalox®, Mylanta®) while taking this medicine.

- You should not use vitamin supplements or other forms of vitamin D while taking calcitriol.
- Make sure your doctor knows if you are taking chloestyramine (Questran®) before taking this medicine.

Warnings:

- Check with your doctor before taking calcitriol if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have any medical problems.
- If you are on dialysis, you may need to follow a special diet and take phosphate-binding medicine. Talk to your doctor about this.
- If you are NOT on dialysis and taking calcitriol, be sure to drink plenty of liquids.

Side Effects

Call your doctor right away if you have any of these side effects:

- Nausea and vomiting, long-lasting headache, constipation, sleepiness and weakness (early signs of high blood calcium)
- Irregular heartbeat
- Seizures
- Severe stomach pain
- Bone pain
- Cloudy or foaming urine

If You Have Other Side Effects That You Think Are Caused by this Medicine, Tell Your Doctor.

If you would like more written information, please call the Center for Health Information at (614)293-3707. You can also make the request by e-mail: health-info@osu.edu.