Alfa-D

(Alfacalcidol)

الفا۔ڈی
(الفاکالسیڈول)

Tablets 0.25mcg,0.5mcg & 1mcg
Drops 2mcg/ml

Information

Alfa-D alfacalcidol tablets are available in three strengths i.e. 0.25mcg, 0.5mcg & 1mcg.

Alfa-D drops contain alfacalcidol 2mcg/ml (each drop provides 0.083mcg).

Alfa-D is an active form of vitamin D_3. It is an agent for the improvement of calcium metabolism and the promotion of bone formation. Alfa-D is directly converted into its active form 1α, 25 $(OH)_2$ D_3 in liver by 25-hydroxylase and acts on intestine, bone, kidney and parathyroid gland. As compared to vitamin D, a main advantage of Alfa-D alfacalcidol is more rapid onset and reversal of action which allows a more accurate dose titration and decreases the risk of prolonged hypercalcaemia.

Pharmacokinetics

Alfa-D alfacalcidol chemically known as 1α hydroxy Vitamin D_3 is fat soluble and upto 100% absorption normally takes place.

Alfa-D alfacalcidol is absorbed through the small intestine, and rapidly metabolized into 1α, 25 $(OH)_2$ -D_3 in the liver. The peak serum level is observed in 8 – 24 hours after oral administration and the half life is 2 – 4 days in normal adults.

Indications

Diseases caused by disturbances in the calcium metabolism due to abnormal vitamin D metabolism.

Bone diseases due to **chronic renal failure**,**osteoporosis**,**vitamin D dependent / resistant rickets and osteomalacia**, **post operative or idiopathic hypoparathyroidism**, **pseudohypoparathyroidism**, and as an adjunct to the management of **tertiary hyperparathyroidism**.

Dosage and Administration

1. The dose should be adjusted according to the age of patient, severity of the symptoms and type of the disease.
2. It is important to adjust the dosage according to the biochemical responses to avoid hypercalcaemia.

Dosage for Adults

Chronic renal failure: 0.5 – 1.0mcg (one to two tablets of Alfa-D) once daily.

Osteoporosis: 0.5 – 1.0mcg (one to two tablets of Alfa-D) once daily.

Hypoparathyroidism & other diseases associated with abnormal vitamin D metabolism: 1.0 – 4.0mcg once daily.

Dosage for Children

1ml is equal to 24 drops.

For osteoporosis: 0.01– 0.03mcg/kg once daily.
For rickets & other indications: 0.05 – 0.1mcg/kg once daily.

Dosage for Neonates

0.1mcg/ kg once daily.

Maintenance dose is generally in the range of 0.25-2mcg daily.

The dose requirements generally decrease in patients with bone disease when there is biochemical or radiographic evidence of bone healing and in hypoparathyroidism patients after normal serum calcium level have been acheived.

Adverse Effects

Adverse effects are uncommon with Alfa-D (alfacalcidol). The adverse effects include hypercalcaemia, eczema, itching, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, epigastric distress and elevation of GPT, GOT, γ-GTP, BUN & serum creatinine levels.

General Precautions

1. To avoid over dosage, the dose should be adjusted to keep the serum calcium level within normal range by periodical monitoring.
2. If hypercalcaemia occurs, treatment with Alfa-D should be stopped immediately until serum calcium level returns to normal (in about one week). Then the treatment should be reinitiated at a lower dose.
3. In case of administration to patients with hyperphosphataemia, the serum phosphate level should be controlled by using phosphate binders.

Drug Interactions

Careful attention should be given to concomitant use of:
1. Magnesium containing preparation (hypermagnesaemia may occur).
2. Digitalis preparations.

Use during pregnancy

Since the safety of Alfa-D (alfacalcidol) tablet during pregnancy has not been established, administration to pregnant women should be limited to the cases where the therapeutic benefit is judged to out weigh the potential risk.

Overdosage

Overdosage of alfacalcidol can lead to hypercalcemia which may magnifest clinically as Malaise, dizziness, dry mouth, constipation, abdominal pain, palpitation etc. Treatment with alfacalcidol should be stopped and general supportive measures should be taken in case of severe hypercalcemia.

Storage

Tablets: Store below 30°C in a dry place, protect from light.
Drops: Store below 15°C in a dry place, protect from light.

Presentations

Alfa-D Tablets 0.25mcg are available in blister pack of 1x10's.

Alfa-D Tablets 0.5mcg are available in blister pack of 1x10's and 3x10's.

Alfa-D Tablets 1mcg are available in blister pack of 1x10's.

Alfa-D drops available in pack size 10ml and 20ml in bottle with dropper.

بچوں کی پہنچ سے دور رکھیں۔
ڈاکٹر کی ہدایت کے مطابق استعمال کریں۔
صرف ڈاکٹر کے نسخے پر فروخت کریں۔

Note: Alfa-D tablet contains lactose.

نوٹ: الفا ڈی گولیوں میں لیکٹوز شامل ہے۔

Manufactured by:

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