1. What Alfacalcidol is and what it is used for

Alfacalcidol belongs to a group of medicines called vitamin D analogues. It is a type of vitamin D.

Vitamin D controls the amounts of two substances in your body. These substances are called calcium and phosphate. Your body needs both of these substances for healthy bones and teeth.

Alfacalcidol works by increasing the amount of vitamin D in your body. This means the levels of calcium and phosphate in your body will increase too.

Alfacalcidol is used in conditions where the amount of calcium in your body is too low. It is used to treat:

- Changes in bone caused by kidney failure (osteodystrophy).
- Changes to your parathyroid glands.
- Antacids (for heartburn) and laxatives (for relieving constipation).
- Anticonvulsants (for epilepsy or fits). You may need a larger dose of Alfacalcidol.
- Cardiac glycosides, such as digoxin (for an abnormal heart beat).
- Calcium salt (veggies or beans), lecithin (soya lecithin), ethanol and sorbitol:

This medicine contains 10 mg sorbitol in each capsule.

Sorbitol is a source of fructose. If your doctor has told you that you have an intolerance to some sugars or if you have an inability to digest fructose, you should not take this medicine. This includes if you have a hereditary fructose intolerance.

This medicine contains 1 mg of alcoholic (ethanol) per soft capsule, corresponding to 0.5 ml.

The small amount of alcohol (ethanol) in each soft capsule of this medicine is equivalent to less than 1.5% of the alcohol that is contained in one glass of milk. This medicine is not alcoholic.

If you have been told by your doctor that you have had an allergy to alcohol (ethanol), you should not use this medicine.

4. Possible side effects

While you are taking Alfacalcidol your doctor may need to change your dose.

If you are taking any of the medicines in section 3 above, tell your doctor before you start taking Alfacalcidol.

Your doctor may prescribe another medicine called a phosphate binding agent to take as well as Alfacalcidol. This will help to keep the right amount of phosphate in your blood.

Your doctor may also prescribe a calcium supplement to take as well as Alfacalcidol. This is to maintain the right amount of calcium in your blood.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have taken or might take any other medicines. This includes any medicines which you have bought without a prescription.

5. How to take Alfacalcidol

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor tells you. Read the full package leaflet so you can spot any signs this may be harmful to you. Do not stop taking your medicine without checking with your doctor. This also applies if you feel that you are not getting the correct dose you will 

Make sure you take the medicine at the same time each day.

You may get too much calcium or phosphate in your blood. This may cause:

- An abnormal heart beat.

Your doctor will tell you how many capsules to take each day. This will be written on your prescription. Please read section 4 of this leaflet so you can spot any signs this may be harmful to you.

It is important that you take Alfacalcidol exactly as your doctor tells you. Do not stop taking your medicine without checking with your doctor. This also applies if you feel that you are not getting the correct dose you will

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ALFACALCIDOL CAPSULES - 0.25/0.5/1 mcg

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