

Denosumab: Patient drug information

Brand Names: US: Prolia

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat soft, brittle bones (osteoporosis).
- It is used for bone growth.
- It is used when treating some cancers.
- It is used to treat high calcium levels in patients with cancer.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have low calcium levels.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- This drug may raise the chance of a broken leg.
- If treatment with this drug is stopped, skipped, or delayed, the chance of a broken bone is raised. This includes bones in the spine. The chance of having more than one broken bone in the spine is raised if you have ever had a broken bone in your spine. Do not stop, skip, or delay treatment with this drug without talking to your doctor.
- Have a bone density test as you have been told by your doctor.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- Take calcium and vitamin D as you were told by your doctor.
- Have a dental exam before starting this drug. Take good care of your teeth. See a dentist often.
- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. A pregnancy test will be done before you start this drug to show that you are NOT pregnant.
- Infections have been reported with use of this drug. If you have any infection, are taking antibiotics now or in the recent past, or have many infections, talk with your doctor.

- This drug may lower blood calcium levels. If you already have low blood calcium, it may get worse with this drug. Sometimes, blood calcium levels have stayed low for weeks or months after use of this drug.
- This drug is not approved for use in children.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of low calcium levels like muscle cramps or spasms, numbness and tingling, or seizures.
- Mouth sores.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- Any new or strange groin, hip, or thigh pain; bone, joint, or muscle pain.
- Shortness of breath.
- This drug may cause jawbone problems. The risk may be higher with longer use, cancer, dental problems, ill-fitting dentures, anemia, blood clotting problems, or infection. It may also be higher if you have dental work, chemo, radiation, or take other drugs that may cause jawbone problems. Many drugs can do this. Talk with your doctor if any of these apply to you.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- Signs of skin infection like oozing, heat, swelling, redness, or pain.
- Signs of high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Small bumps or patches on your skin, dry skin, or if your skin feels like leather.
- Bladder pain or pain when passing urine or change in how much urine is passed.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Back pain.
- Headache.

- Signs of a common cold.
- Pain in arms or legs; muscle or joint pain.

How is this drug best taken?

- It is given as a shot into the fatty part of the skin.