

Zoledronic acid: Patient drug information

Brand Names: US: Reclast

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to prevent or treat soft, brittle bones (osteoporosis).
- It is used to treat high calcium levels in patients with cancer.
- It is used when treating some cancers.
- It is used to treat Paget's disease.
- 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 any of these health problems: Kidney disease, low calcium levels, malabsorption syndrome, or underactive parathyroid gland.
- If you have had thyroid surgery, parathyroid surgery, or your small bowel removed.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not take this drug if you are pregnant.

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.
- Worsening of asthma has happened in people taking drugs like this one.
- This drug may raise the chance of a broken leg.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- Have a bone density test as you have been told by your doctor
- Take calcium and vitamin D as you were told by your doctor.
- 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. Call your doctor right away if you have jaw swelling or pain.
- Have a dental exam before starting this drug. Take good care of your teeth. See a dentist often.

- You will need to be sure that you are not dehydrated before getting this drug. Check with your doctor to see if you need to drink extra fluids before getting this drug.
- This drug may cause fertility problems. This may affect being able to have children.
- This drug works best when used with calcium/vitamin D and weight-bearing workouts like walking or PT (physical therapy).
- Follow the diet and workout plan that your doctor told you about.

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 fluid and electrolyte problems like mood changes, confusion, muscle pain or weakness, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, very bad dizziness or passing out, fast heartbeat, more thirst, seizures, feeling very tired or weak, not hungry, unable to pass urine or change in the amount of urine produced, dry mouth, dry eyes, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.
- Signs of kidney problems like unable to pass urine, change in how much urine is passed, blood in the urine, or a big weight gain.
- Severe bone, joint, or muscle pain; any new or strange groin, hip, or thigh pain.
- Shortness of breath.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Chest pain.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or very bad eye irritation.
- Trouble swallowing.
- Very bad pain when swallowing.

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:

- Feeling dizzy, tired, or weak.
- Constipation, diarrhea, stomach pain, upset stomach, or throwing up.
- Heartburn.
- Headache.

- Flu-like signs.
- Back, bone, joint, muscle, or neck pain.

How is this drug best taken?

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.
- Drink lots of noncaffeine liquids unless told to drink less liquid by your doctor.
- Acetaminophen may be given to lower fever and chills.
- Drink at least 2 glasses of liquids a few hours before you get this drug.