

Cinacalcet (Sensipar)

What it does:

Cinacalcet is used to treat a condition called secondary hyperparathyroidism in people with kidney disease.

How it works:

Cinacalcet acts on the parathyroid glands to lower parathyroid hormone levels. As a result, serum calcium and phosphorus levels may also normalize.

How to take it:

This medication should be taken once a day at the same time each day with food or right after a meal. Swallow the tablets whole and take the medication only as prescribed.

What to do if you miss a dose:

If you forget to take a dose of cinacalcet, skip that dose. Take your usual dose the next day.

DO NOT double your dose.

Possible side effects:

Contact your doctor if any of the following occur:

1. Hypocalcemia
2. Low serum calcium

Signs of hypocalcemia include:

- Numbness or tingling around the mouth
- Muscle aches or cramps
- Seizures (the risk is greater if you have had seizures before)

Other possible symptoms:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Muscle pain

Relation to diet:

Avoid or limit high-phosphorus foods as advised by your doctor and dietitian. High-phosphorus foods include dairy products (milk, yogurt, cheese, pudding, ice cream), chocolate, nuts, peanuts, peanut butter, bran cereal, bran muffins, legumes (chickpeas, kidney beans, navy beans).

Precautions:

Blood tests to measure the effect of this medication on iPTH levels must be done at least 12 hours after taking a dose. Taking this medication on a regular schedule makes it easier to know when the 12 hours have passed.



Use the space below to write down why you are taking this medication and other notes.
