

# Welcome to Hectorol®

Answers about vitamin D in stage 5 chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients on dialysis



## Indication

Hectorol Injection is indicated for the treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism in patients with CKD on dialysis.

## Important Safety Information

You should not take Hectorol if you have a history of abnormally high calcium blood levels (hypercalcemia) or if you have very high vitamin D levels.

**Please see full Important Safety Information on back cover.**

**Please see full Prescribing Information inside pocket.**



**HECTOROL®**  
doxercalciferol injection



## Let's get started!

Your doctor prescribed Hectorol<sup>®</sup>, a form of vitamin D. This booklet explains why vitamin D is important, why Hectorol has been prescribed for you, and how it can help you.

## Important Safety Information

Overdosage of any form of vitamin D is dangerous and may require emergency attention.



**HECTOROL<sup>®</sup>**  
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## Why is vitamin D important?

Vitamin D is a hormone that is important for strong bones. You get vitamin D from some of the foods you eat, from sunlight being absorbed into your skin, and by taking vitamin supplements.

Vitamin D has to be made "active" by passing through the liver and kidneys. Once it is active, it is turned into the hormone that helps balance calcium within your body, which is important for bone health.

### Person without CKD



Inactive vitamin D comes from dietary sources and from the exposure of skin to sunlight. It is activated by the liver and kidneys to form active vitamin D.

### Patient with CKD



Inactive vitamin D provided by Hectorol injection is activated by the liver, without the need for activation by the kidneys, to form active vitamin D.

**Active vitamin D**

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## An introduction to Hectorol<sup>®</sup>

Hectorol is a prescription vitamin D hormone that treats secondary hyperparathyroidism (SHPT) in patients with CKD on dialysis.

Hectorol is different from natural vitamin D. You get natural vitamin D from some of the foods you eat, from sunlight being absorbed into your skin, or from vitamin supplements.

## Important Safety Information

Before taking Hectorol, tell your doctor if you have ever had an irregular heartbeat or seizure, or if you are taking any digitalis drugs.

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## How can Hectorol help me?

Your doctor has prescribed Hectorol to help treat your SHPT. Hectorol does not need the kidneys to help increase vitamin D in your body and lower your parathyroid hormone (PTH) levels. When you have CKD, vitamin supplements and natural sources of vitamin D may not lower your PTH level because they need your kidneys to work.

Ask your doctor what a healthy PTH range is for your body and what your PTH levels are. By taking Hectorol, you are helping to lower your PTH levels.



## How to take Hectorol®

Hectorol is an injection that can be administered by a nurse or an infusion specialist. Once your doctor has prescribed Hectorol for you, it will be injected along with your dialysis solution during your hemodialysis treatments.

## More resources for patients with CKD<sup>a</sup>

### American Association of Kidney Patients

1-800-749-2257

[www.aakp.org](http://www.aakp.org)

### American Kidney Fund

1-800-638-8299

[www.kidneyfund.org](http://www.kidneyfund.org)

### National Kidney Foundation

1-800-622-9010

[www.kidney.org](http://www.kidney.org)

<sup>a</sup>sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC does not review or control the content of non-Sanofi literature or websites. These listings do not constitute an endorsement by Sanofi of information provided by any other organization.



## Talk to your team about your treatment

Remember, Hectorol can be an important part of your treatment plan. Be sure to follow your doctor's instructions for each part of your treatment. Also, be sure to talk over any questions or concerns with your healthcare team.

## Important Safety Information

Do not take other vitamin D related drugs if you are currently taking Hectorol.

It is important for anyone taking Hectorol to talk to their doctor before taking any non-prescription drugs or magnesium-containing antacids, supplements and herbal preparations and to adhere to instructions about following a low phosphorus diet and calcium supplementation.

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# YOU are important to your success

Follow these tips to stay on track.

## Take your medicine

- If you have any questions or concerns about how Hectorol® will be administered to you during your hemodialysis, talk to your doctor or nurse
- Be sure to take all of the medicines your doctor has prescribed, including any phosphate binders and supplements
  - Talk to your doctor about all of your current medicines before you start taking any new medicines

## Nutrition

- Follow the food choices your dietitian has recommended

## Stay involved

- Go to all of your scheduled healthcare appointments
- If you have any questions, ask your healthcare team for answers because YOU are in charge of taking care of your health

## Know your health goal

- It is important to maintain the right levels of calcium, phosphorus, and PTH
- Talk to your doctor, nurse, or dietitian to find out what goals are right for you





## Your goal:

Date	Current PTH level	Goal PTH level

Follow the steps your doctor recommends to help you reach your goals.

## Important Safety Information

Your doctor should monitor your calcium, phosphorus and PTH levels.

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**HECTOROL<sup>®</sup>**  
doxercalciferol injection

## Notes:

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## Important Safety Information for Hectorol (doxercalciferol) Injection

- You should not take Hectorol if you have a history of abnormally high calcium blood levels (hypercalcemia) or if you have very high vitamin D levels.
- Overdosage of any form of vitamin D is dangerous and may require emergency attention.
- Before taking Hectorol, tell your doctor if you have ever had an irregular heartbeat or seizure, or if you are taking any digitalis drugs.
- Do not take other vitamin D related drugs if you are currently taking Hectorol.
- It is important for anyone taking Hectorol to talk to their doctor before taking any non-prescription drugs or magnesium-containing antacids, supplements and herbal preparations and to adhere to instructions about following a low phosphorus diet and calcium supplementation.
- Your doctor should monitor your calcium, phosphorus and PTH levels.
- Tell your doctor if you experience symptoms of hypercalcemia such as weakness, headache, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, dry mouth, constipation, muscle pain, bone pain, metallic taste and loss of appetite.
- The main side effects of treatment with Hectorol are hypercalcemia, hyperphosphatemia, and oversuppression of PTH. Your doctor may ask you questions to see if you are experiencing any symptoms related to these conditions.
- During treatment, your doctor may change your dose of Hectorol as well as the dose of your phosphate binder.
- Common side effects seen in Hectorol-treated patients on dialysis were swelling, headache, ill feeling, nausea/vomiting, dizziness, shortness of breath, itching and slow heartbeat.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or nursing.
- This drug should be used with caution if you have impaired liver function.

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