

# Miacalcin (calcitonin) basics

**Treats high calcium levels and prevents bone loss.** Miacalcin (calcitonin) can be used for osteoporosis, but it is not a first choice because there are more effective medications available.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Miacalcin (calcitonin)</b> Drug effectiveness			[Progressive bar from Weeks to Months]		

## Tips from pharmacists

- New, unopened nasal spray bottles should be stored in the refrigerator until you use them. Once they are opened, they should be stored at room temperature for up to 35 days.
- Allow nasal spray bottle to reach room temperature before use. Prime before first use by spraying in the air 5 times until full spray is produced.
- Toss spray bottle after 30 doses. It may not feel empty yet, but it won't deliver the correct dose anymore.
- Follow the directions your doctor or pharmacist tells you so you get the full dose every time.
- Continue to take your calcium or vitamin D.
- The nasal spray is only used for weak bones. Forms of the drug that are injected in the skin or muscles are used for other conditions such as high calcium in the blood, Paget's disease, and weak bones.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Allergic reaction

Miacalcin (calcitonin) is similar to a compound that's in salmon. If you are or think you're allergic to fish, you should get tested first before using Miacalcin (calcitonin), since it can set off a reaction. If you notice any difficulty breathing, or swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat, stop the medication and go to the emergency room right away.

### Seizures

Rarely, people using Miacalcin (calcitonin) have had seizures because of low calcium. If you've been told you have low calcium, your doctor needs to treat this first, since Miacalcin (calcitonin) can make it worse. If you notice muscle spasms, twitching, numbness/tingling in your fingers, toes, or mouth, talk to your doctor.

### Nasal problems

Using the Miacalcin (calcitonin) nasal spray can cause stuffy or bloody nose. Follow the directions provided by your doctor or pharmacist to lower your risk. Check inside your nose regularly for any bleeding or injury, especially along the middle bony portion, and let your doctor know if there are any issues. You might need to stop Miacalcin (calcitonin) for a few days so your nose can heal.