

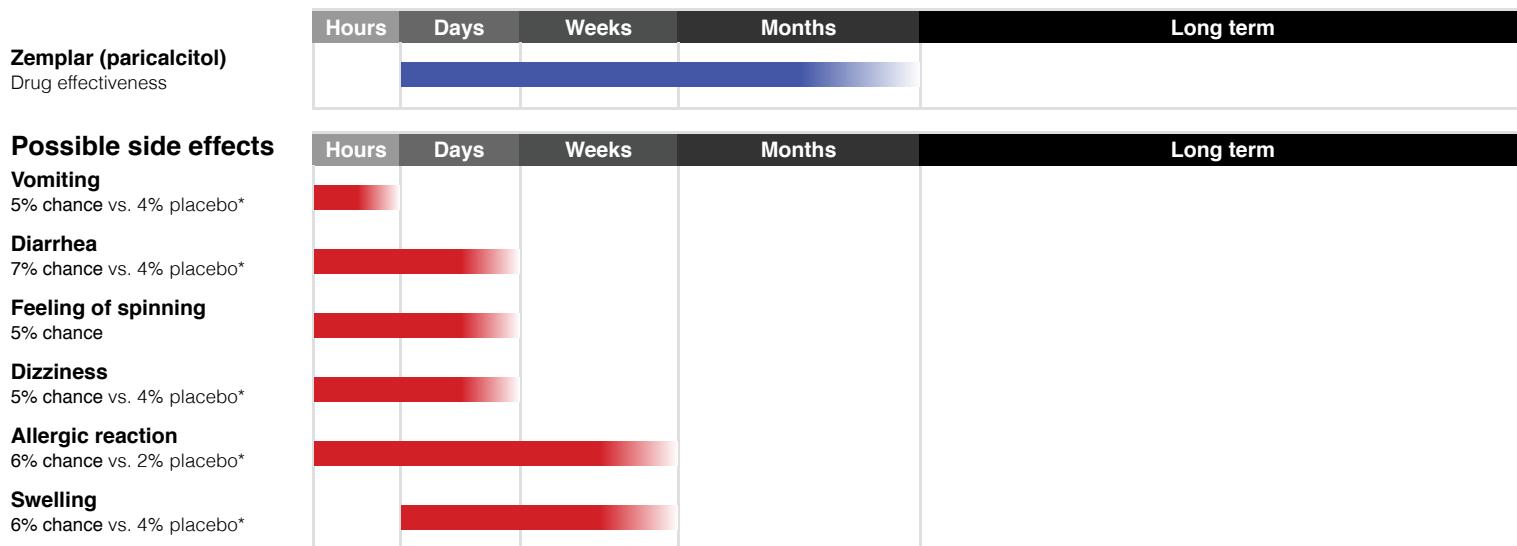
Zemplar (paricalcitol) basics

Powered by
IODINE

Treats high parathyroid hormone levels. Zemplar (paricalcitol) works well to lower parathyroid hormone levels in people with chronic kidney disease and is safe for people with high blood calcium levels, but can be more expensive than alternatives.

What to expect when starting

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



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

Tips from pharmacists

- You can expect to have more blood tests done when you first start Zemplar (paricalcitol) or when your dose changes.
- Take Zemplar (paricalcitol) as instructed, either once a day or 3 times a week.
- Knowing which foods to eat or avoid can help if you have secondary hyperparathyroidism. Your doctor may recommend a low phosphorus diet. Ask your doctor which type of diet is best for you.
- Take Zemplar (paricalcitol) with or without food.
- If you're also taking cholestyramine (Questran) or mineral oil, take Zemplar (paricalcitol) at least 1 hour before or 4 to 6 hours after these medicines.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

High blood calcium levels

Taking too much vitamin D can cause dangerously high blood calcium levels. Avoid prescription-strength doses of vitamin D while on Zemplar (paricalcitol). Your doctor will order blood tests to check your calcium levels. Talk to your doctor if you have trouble thinking clearly, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, constipation, weight loss, frequent urination, thirst, or feel tired.

Interaction with digoxin

Taking Zemplar (paricalcitol) with Digitalis medicines, like digoxin, can have a higher risk of toxicity. Tell your doctor about all your prescription and nonprescription medicines. Your doctor will decide if this is the right medicine for you.

High aluminum levels

Taking Zemplar (paricalcitol) with medicines that contain aluminum (such as antacids and phosphate binders) can cause dangerously high levels of aluminum in your body, which can damage your bones. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about your prescription and nonprescription medicines, including supplements.