

2012

Fosrenol® (Lanthanum) and Hemodialysis

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What is Fosrenol®?

It is a drug used to treat high levels of phosphorus [mineral that builds strong bones and teeth] in the body. It binds to the phosphorus in the foods you eat to stop the body from taking it in. It is removed through the bowel when you go to the bathroom.

Why does someone on hemodialysis need this medicine?

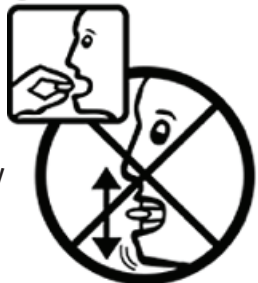
People with kidney disease are less able to remove phosphorus from the body. When phosphorus levels in the blood gets too high, it pushes the calcium out from your bones. This makes them weaker. Hemodialysis can remove some of the extra phosphorus, but medicines such as Fosrenol® are often needed to help remove more.

Stay on your low-phosphorus diet as lots of foods contain this mineral. Choose foods low in phosphorus like white bread, rolls, fruit, chicken, fish and pizza.

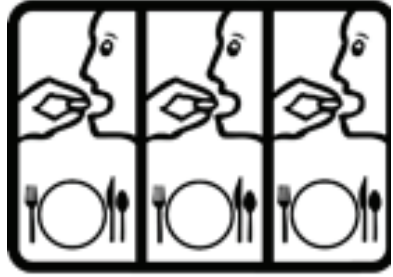
How do I take Fosrenol®?

- Chew a Fosrenol® tablet completely before you swallow it. Do not swallow the tablets whole.

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- Take with each meal.
- Do not miss doses. If you forget a dose, then skip it.



Are there any side effects that I should know about?

Like all medicines, this drug may cause side effects such as:

- o Nausea [upset stomach]
- o Vomiting [throwing – up]
- o Stomach cramps
- o Diarrhea
- o Trouble with your dialysis graft
- o Tell your health care provider if these symptoms are very bad or do not go away.

How do I store this medicine?

- Store at room temperature and away from wet areas like the bathroom.
- Store out of children's reach.



Looking for more health information?

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazine articles and online health information.
For a list of public libraries in Nova Scotia go to www.publiclibraries.ns.ca

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years.