

Cinacalcet (Sensipar®) for Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

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What is secondary hyperparathyroidism?

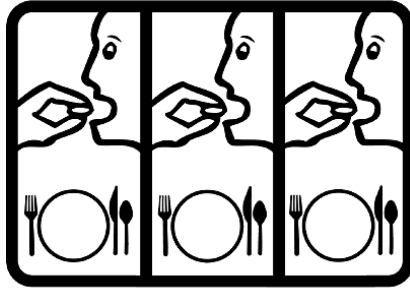
- Secondary hyperparathyroidism is a condition that can be caused by chronic kidney disease (CKD). It happens when your kidneys cannot filter (remove) waste products the right way. This leads to too much parathyroid hormone in your blood.
- Parathyroid hormone balances the amount of calcium and phosphorus (a mineral that builds strong bones and teeth) in your blood. This keeps your bones, heart, muscles, nerves, and blood vessels working well. Too much parathyroid hormone pushes calcium out of your bones. This makes your bones weaker and can cause calcium to build up in your heart, lungs, and blood vessels.

What is cinacalcet?

- Cinacalcet (sin-a-KAL-cet) is a medication that lowers the amount of parathyroid hormone in your blood. This helps to balance the amount of calcium and phosphorous in your blood.
- Sensipar® is the brand name for cinacalcet.

How do I take cinacalcet?

- Take this medication as prescribed by your renal team. Take it with food or right after eating.



- Swallow the tablet whole. **Do not** cut it in half. **Do not** crush, chew, dissolve, or break it.



- Take cinacalcet at the same time each day.
- **Do not** miss any doses. If you forget to take a dose, skip it. Take your next dose at the usual time. **Do not take 2 doses at the same time.**

Blood tests

- You will need to have regular blood tests to measure your parathyroid hormone, calcium, and phosphorus levels.

What are the possible side effects?

- Like all medications, cinacalcet may cause side effects. The most common side effects are:
 - › Nausea (upset stomach)
 - › Vomiting (throwing up)
 - › Diarrhea (loose, watery poop)
 - › Muscle pain
- Rare side effects include:
 - › Seizures (electrical brain activity that may cause you to shake, faint, or change how you act or feel). This is more likely if you have had seizures before.
- **Tell your renal team if these symptoms are very bad or do not go away after 14 days (2 weeks).**

How do I store this medication?

- Store cinacalcet at room temperature (15 to 30 °C or 59 to 86° F).
- Store it out of the reach of children and pets.



If you have any questions, talk to a member of your health care team, like your pharmacist, nurse practitioner, nurse, or doctor.

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This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find all patient education resources here:
www.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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