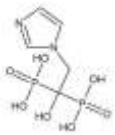
Rx

ZOLEDRONATE

(Zoledronate is one of a group of medicines known as bisphosphonates)



Description

Zoledronate is one of a group of medicines known as bisphosphonates. Bisphosphonates prevent bone destruction by inhibiting the action of osteoclasts, cells that break down bone. As of 2004 zoledronate is one of the most potent bisphosphonates approved for use in the United States.

Recommended Dosage

As of 2002 the recommended dosage of zoledronate is 4 mg, given intravenously over a 15-minute period. This short infusion period gives zoledronate an advantage over other drugs in the bisphosphonate class; one study done in Australia found that patients preferred zoledronate to other intravenous bisphosphonates for this reason. The frequency of administration of zoledronate for hypercalcemia depends on the patient's calcium blood level.

Used

A drug used to treat patients with hypercalcemia (high blood levels of calcium) caused by cancer. It is also used together with other drugs to treat multiple myeloma and to prevent bone fractures and reduce bone pain in people who have cancer that has spread to the bone. It is a type of bisphosphonate. Also called zoledronic acid and Zometa.

Side Effects

The most common side effects due to zoledronate that have been reported to date are fever, low blood concentration of phosphate, and low blood calcium (not low enough to cause symptoms). Overall, the drug appears to be well tolerated and safe for long-term use in cancer patients.

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Revised November 2010

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