Department of Nephrology/Pharmacy

Sevelamer tablets (Renagel®)

What are sevelamer tablets and what do they do?

Sevelamer (Renagel®) tablets belong to a group of medicines known as phosphate binders.

Normally your kidneys can control the level of most of the substances in the blood. However, when the kidneys are not working well phosphates can build up in the blood and can cause problems. When phosphate builds up in the blood it can combine with calcium in the blood and this mixture can cause damage by being deposited on the blood vessel walls. It can also cause itchiness and affect the strength of the bones and joints.

In order to control your phosphate levels you will be given advice on how to lower your phosphate intake by adjusting your diet, but phosphate binders are often prescribed in addition to this.

Sevelamer tablets prevent the absorption of phosphates into the bloodstream as they bind to the phosphate in your food. The combination is then passed out in your stools.

Why am I prescribed sevelamer tablets?

Sevelamer tablets have been prescribed for you to take as the phosphate level in your blood is high and Sevelamer tablets may help to lower this in addition to a low phosphate diet.

How do I take my sevelamer tablets?

- These tablets are best taken at the beginning of meals. They should be swallowed whole with water.
- Phosphate binders only work if taken with foods containing phosphate.
- They should be taken with all meals. They may also need to be taken with snacks too – your doctor, nurse or dietitian will discuss with you exactly when to take the binders.
- Your doctor, dietician or specialist nurse will advise you how may tablets to take with each meal.

Do I need to have any tests or be monitored because I am taking sevelamer tablets?

The levels of phosphate in your blood will be monitored regularly by either your GP or the hospital staff.

Are there any side effects?

The most common side effects to sevelamer tablets are constipation or diarrhoea and feeling sick.

These side effects should be mild but if you have any concerns about these or any other side effects please contact your doctor or specialist nurse for advice.

Are there any problems taking sevelamer tablets with any other medications?

Phosphate binders should not be taken at the same time as iron tablets, or some antibiotics, as this makes both ineffective. Take phosphate binders before a meal and iron tablets one hour after the meal. If you are prescribed any antibiotics discuss with either your doctor or pharmacist when these should be taken.

Only take tablets prescribed for you by your doctor and check with your pharmacist before taking any new medicines.

Further information about your tablet can be found in the patient information leaflet found in the tablet/capsule box or on the container.

Further information

Further information about your tablet can be found in the patient information leaflet found in the tablet/capsule box or on the container.

If you have any other questions about your medication, please contact the medicines helpline on 01223 217502.

We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:

If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish
Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese
Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Arabic
إذا كنت تودّ الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال **بمعلومات المريض** على الرقم : 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني : patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese
如您需以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish
Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasınlar: 01223 216032 veya patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Urdu
اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشنٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کرنے کی درخواست کریں: 01223 216032 یا patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Bengali
আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পেতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

Document history

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