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2. Ergocalciferol

Ergocalciferol

Generic name: ergocalciferol (vitamin D2) [*ER-goe-kal-SIF-e-role*]**Brand names:** [Calcidol](#), [Calciferol](#), [Drisdol](#), Vitamin D2**Dosage forms:** oral capsule (50,000 intl units), oral solution (200 mcg/mL)**Drug class:** [Vitamins](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Oct 3, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is ergocalciferol?

Ergocalciferol is [vitamin D2](#). Vitamin D helps your body absorb calcium.

Ergocalciferol is used to treat [hypoparathyroidism](#) (decreased functioning of the parathyroid glands).

Ergocalciferol is also used to treat [rickets](#) (softening of the bones caused by [vitamin D deficiency](#)) or low levels of phosphate in the blood ([hypophosphatemia](#)).

Ergocalciferol may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Ergocalciferol side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Stop taking ergocalciferol and call your doctor at once if you have:

- chest pain, feeling short of breath;
- growth problems (in a child taking ergocalciferol); or
- **early signs of vitamin D overdose**--weakness, metallic taste in your mouth, [weight loss](#), muscle or bone pain, [constipation](#), [nausea](#), and [vomiting](#).

Less serious side effects may be more likely, and you may have none at all.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

[Ergocalciferol side effects](#) (more detail)

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6.6 / 10

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Warnings

You should not take ergocalciferol if you have had an allergic reaction to vitamin D, or if you have high levels of calcium or vitamin D in your body, or any condition that makes it hard for your body to absorb nutrients from food (malabsorption).

Use only the recommended dose of ergocalciferol. **An overdose could cause serious or life-threatening side effects.**

Before taking this medicine

You should not take ergocalciferol if you have had an allergic reaction to vitamin D, or if you have:

- high levels of vitamin D in your body ([hypervitaminosis D](#));
- high levels of calcium in your blood ([hypercalcemia](#)); or
- any condition that makes it hard for your body to absorb nutrients from food (malabsorption).

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- [heart disease](#);
- kidney disease; or
- an electrolyte imbalance.

Certain forms of ergocalciferol may contain ingredients you should know about, such as peanut or soybean oil, sugar, aspartame (phenylalanine), or certain food dyes. Ask a doctor before using ergocalciferol if you have allergies, [diabetes](#), or [phenylketonuria](#) (PKU).

Too much vitamin D could harm an unborn baby, and your dose needs may be different during pregnancy. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking ergocalciferol.

Ergocalciferol can pass into breast milk and may cause side effects in the nursing baby. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding.

Do not give ergocalciferol to a child without medical advice. Your child's dose will depend on age, weight, diet, and

other factors.

How should I take ergocalciferol?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. **Use only the recommended dose of ergocalciferol.**

It may be best to take ergocalciferol after a meal, but you may take ergocalciferol with or without food.

Measure **liquid medicine** carefully. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

You will need frequent medical tests.

Your doctor may begin to reduce your ergocalciferol dose as your condition improves. **Carefully follow all instructions about adjusting your dose.** In some cases, there may be a very small difference in amount between safe and dangerous doses of this medicine.

Your doctor will determine how long to treat you with this medicine.

Ergocalciferol may be only part of a complete program of treatment that also includes dietary changes and taking calcium and vitamin supplements. Follow your doctor's instructions very closely.

Learn about the foods you should eat to make sure you get enough calcium and vitamin D in your diet. **Your ergocalciferol dose may need to be adjusted as you make changes to your diet.**

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

 [Detailed Ergocalciferol dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose of vitamin D can cause serious or life-threatening side effects.**

Overdose symptoms may include nausea, loss of appetite, thirst, urinating more or less than usual, body aches, stiffness, confusion, or irregular heartbeats.

What should I avoid while taking ergocalciferol?

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before taking any multivitamins, mineral supplements, or [antacids](#) while you are taking ergocalciferol.

What other drugs will affect ergocalciferol?

Certain medications can make it harder for your body to absorb vitamin D. If you take other medications, take them at least 2 hours before or 2 hours after you take ergocalciferol.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- a diuretic or "water pill"; or
- [mineral oil](#) (sometimes taken as a laxative).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may affect ergocalciferol, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Ergocalciferol drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does ergocalciferol interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

ergocalciferol

+

Enter a drug name

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Patient resources

- [Ergocalciferol Capsules and Tablets patient information](#)
- [Ergocalciferol Solution](#)

Other brands

Drisdol, Calciferol, Calcidol

Professional resources

- [Ergocalciferol monograph](#)
- [Ergocalciferol \(FDA\)](#)
- [Vitamin D Ergocalciferol \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

Drisdol

Related treatment guides

- [Hypoparathyroidism](#)
- [Hypocalcemia](#)
- [Familial Hypophosphatemia](#)
- [Hypophosphatemia](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.


Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

 Rx and/or OTC


Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

6.0 / 10

[32 Reviews](#)

Images

Ergocalciferol 1.25 mg (50,000 IU) (PC7)



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