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2. Sevelamer

Sevelamer

Generic name: sevelamer [se-VEL-a-mer]**Brand names:** [Renagel](#), [Renvela](#)**Dosage forms:** oral powder for reconstitution (carbonate 0.8 g; carbonate 2.4 g), oral tablet (400 mg; 800 mg; carbonate 800 mg)**Drug class:** [Phosphate binders](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Nov 27, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is sevelamer?

Sevelamer is a phosphate binder. Sevelamer helps prevent [hypocalcemia](#) (low levels of calcium in the body) caused by elevated phosphorus.

Sevelamer is used to control phosphorus levels in people with [chronic kidney disease](#) who are on dialysis.

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

Sevelamer 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.

Sevelamer may cause serious side effects. Stop using sevelamer and call your doctor at once if you have:

- choking, or trouble swallowing;
- black, bloody, or tarry stools;
- severe [constipation](#) with stomach pain; or
- constipation that gets worse or does not clear up.

Common side effects of sevelamer may include:

- [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), stomach pain, loss of appetite;
- [upset stomach](#), gas, bloating;
- [diarrhea](#), constipation;
- tired feeling;
- [itching](#); or

- [joint pain](#).

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.

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

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Warnings

You should not take sevelamer if you have a [bowel obstruction](#).

Before taking this medicine

You should not take sevelamer if you are allergic to it, or if you have a bowel obstruction.

To make sure sevelamer is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- trouble swallowing;
- severe constipation;
- a blockage in your intestines;
- slow digestion;
- a stomach or intestinal disorder; or
- if you have recently had stomach or intestinal [surgery](#).

It is not known whether this medicine will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Your dose needs may be different during pregnancy.

Taking sevelamer while you are pregnant can lower your blood levels of certain [vitamins](#) or [folic acid](#). Follow your doctor's instructions about taking vitamins or mineral supplements during pregnancy.

Because sevelamer is not absorbed into the bloodstream, it is not expected to be harmful to a nursing baby.

Sevelamer is not approved for use by anyone younger than 6 years old.

How should I take sevelamer?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results. Do not use sevelamer in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Take sevelamer with meals.

Sevelamer **powder** must be dissolved in water before you take it. The 0.8-gram packet should be mixed with at least 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) of water. The 2.4-gram packet should be mixed with at least 2 ounces (4 tablespoons) of water.

Stir the powder in water until it is completely dissolved. Stir and drink this mixture right away. To get the entire dose, add a little more water to the same glass, swirl gently and drink right away.

While using sevelamer, you may need frequent blood tests.

Call your doctor if you have have trouble swallowing the **tablet**, or if it feels like it gets stuck in your esophagus after you swallow it.

Sevelamer may be only part of a complete program of treatment that also includes a special diet. It is very important to follow the diet plan created for you by your doctor or nutrition counselor. You should become very familiar with the list of foods you must eat or avoid to help control your condition.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Sevelamer dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Hyperphosphatemia of Renal Failure:

Initial Dosing for patients not on a phosphate binder: 800 mg to 1600 mg orally 3 times a day with meals

Based on serum phosphorus level:

-Phosphorus greater than 5.5 to less than 7.5 mg/dL: 800 mg 3 times a day with meals

-Phosphorus greater than or equal to 7.5 mg/dL: 1600 mg 3 times a day with meals

-Titrate in increments of 800 mg 3 times a day at 2-week intervals with the goal of controlling serum phosphorus within target range.

Average prescribed dose: 7.2 g/day (2.4 g with each meal)

Maximum studied dose: 14 g per day (carbonate); 13 g per day (hydrochloride)

Switching from the hydrochloride salt to carbonate: Use the same dose, however further titration may be necessary to achieve desired phosphorus levels.

Switching from [calcium acetate](#): Substitute approximately mg for mg

Comment: Treatment of [hyperphosphatemia](#) includes reduction in dietary intake of phosphate, inhibition of intestinal phosphate absorption with [phosphate binders](#), and removal of phosphate with dialysis.

Use: To control serum phosphorus levels in patients with chronic kidney disease on dialysis.

 [Detailed Sevelamer dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Be sure to take the missed dose with food. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. **Do not** take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while taking sevelamer?

You may be taking other medicines that should not be taken at the same time. Taking sevelamer can make it harder for your body to absorb certain drugs, making them less effective:

- **ciprofloxacin (Cipro)** should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take sevelamer;
- **mycophenolate mofetil (CellCept)** should be taken at least 2 hours before you take sevelamer.

What other drugs will affect sevelamer?

Other drugs may interact with sevelamer, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal](#)

[products](#). Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use now and any medicine you start or stop using.

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

Does sevelamer interact with my other drugs?

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

sevelamer

+

Enter a drug name

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Patient resources

- [Sevelamer advanced reading](#)
- [Sevelamer Powder Packets](#)

Other brands

[Renvela](#), [Renagel](#)

Professional resources

- [Sevelamer \(Local\) monograph](#)
- [Sevelamer Carbonate Tablets \(FDA\)](#)
- [Sevelamer Hydrochloride Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

- [Sevelamer Suspension \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Renvela](#), [Renagel](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Hyperphosphatemia of Renal Failure](#)

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	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
	Drug history at FDA

User Reviews & Ratings

5.1 / 10

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