

Cinacalcet (Sensipar)

What it does:

Cinacalcet is used to treat a condition called secondary hyperparathyroidism in people with kidney disease.

How it works:

Cinacalcet acts on the parathyroid glands to lower parathyroid hormone levels. As a result, serum calcium and phosphorus levels may also normalize.

How to take it:

This medication should be taken once a day at the same time each day with food or right after a meal. Swallow the tablets whole and take the medication only as prescribed.

What to do if you miss a dose:

If you forget to take a dose of cinacalcet, skip that dose. Take your usual dose the next day. **DO NOT DOUBLE YOUR DOSE.**

Possible side effects:

Contact your doctor if any of the following occur:

1. Hypocalcemia
2. Low serum calcium

Signs of hypocalcemia include:

- Numbness or tingling around the mouth
- Muscle aches or cramps
- Seizures (the risk is greater if you have had seizures before)

Other possible symptoms:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Muscle pain

Relation to diet:

Ask to speak to your dietitian about food sources of phosphorus, in particular phosphorus additives that come from prepared and processed foods.

Precautions:

Blood tests to measure the effect of this medication on iPTH levels must be done at least 12 hours after taking a dose. Taking this medication on a regular schedule makes it easier to know when the 12 hours have passed.

Why I am taking this medicine:
