



Bonus Monographs



Sevelamer hydrochloride

(seh-VEL-ah-mer)

PREGNANCY CATEGORY: C

CLASSIFICATION(S):

Urinary tract drug

Rx: Renagel

ACTION/KINETICS

A polymeric phosphate binder that decreases intestinal phosphate absorption. A decrease in serum phosphate decreases ectopic calcification and osteitis fibrosa. Also lowers LDL and total serum cholesterol. Is not absorbed into the systemic circulation.

USES

Reduce serum phosphorus in ESRD in clients on hemodialysis.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Hypophosphatemia, bowel obstruction.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

No well controlled studies in lactating mothers. Use with caution in dysphagia, swallowing disorders, severe GI motility disorders, or major GI tract surgery. Safety and efficacy have not been determined in children.

SIDE EFFECTS

GI: Diarrhea, dyspepsia, vomiting. **CV:** Hypotension or hypertension, thrombosis. **Body as a whole:** Infection, pain, headache. **Respiratory:** Increased cough.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Sevelamer may bind antiarrhythmic or anticonvulsant drugs → ↓ absorption.

HOW SUPPLIED

Capsule: 403 mg

DOSAGE

• CAPSULES

Hyperphosphatemia in ESRD

Adults, initial: 2–4 capsules with each meal, based on the following serum phosphorus levels: **Greater than 6 but less than 7.5 mg/dL:** 2 capsules t.i.d.; **7.5 mg/dL or more but less than 9 mg/dL:** 3 capsules t.i.d.; **9 mg/dL or more:** 4 capsules t.i.d. Adjust dosage to lower serum phosphorus to 6 mg/dL or less. Increase or decrease the dose by 1 capsule/meal as needed.

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS

ASSESSMENT

1. Note disease onset, dietary compliance, other agents trialed, and time on hemodialysis.
2. Assess for low P levels and bowel obstruction; determine any dysphagia, swallowing or severe GI motility disorders, or major GI surgery.
3. Monitor serum P, Ca, Cl, and bicarbonate levels.

CLIENT/FAMILY TEACHING

1. Take with meals and adhere to prescribed diet for ESRD.
2. Space doses of concomitant drugs by 1 or more hr before or 3 hr after sevelamer.
3. Swallow whole. Do not chew capsules or take apart because the capsule contents expand in water.
4. Dosage is prescribed/adjusted according to serum phosphorus levels.
5. May experience diarrhea, vomiting, GI upset, headaches, and pain; report if persistent.

OUTCOMES/EVALUATE

↓ Serum phosphorus to 6 mg/dL or less