

# Zoledronic Acid (Zometa®)

Zoledronic acid is a medicine that belongs to a category of medicines known as bisphosphonates. Bisphosphonates act by strongly binding to the bone and slowing down the process of bone change.

This medicine is used to reduce the amount of calcium in your blood and can also help treat bone damage caused by cancers that spread to the bone.

## How Is It Given?

- clear liquid by IV (intravenous) line for at least 15 minutes

## What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

### Common:

- fever of short duration
- flu-like symptoms with chills
- muscle aches
- mild nausea (feel like throwing up) and vomiting (throwing up)
- thirst
- fatigue

### Less common:

- low blood levels of calcium, phosphate and or magnesium
- redness and swelling at infusion site

- skin rash
- itching
- red, irritated eyes
- changes in kidney function
- breathing problems (if you have asthma and an allergy to aspirin)

## Special Notes

- Before starting this medicine, tell your doctor if you:
  - have a liver or kidney problem
  - are or think you may be pregnant
  - are breastfeeding
  - have asthma and are allergic to aspirin.
- Drink plenty of liquids after you receive a dose of zoledronic acid.

## When To Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have:

- shortness of breath
- chest pain
- severe diarrhea
- substantial decrease in urine
- severe rash or hives.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.