

Phosex®

1000 mg Tablet

CALCIUM ACETATE

Patient Information Leaflet



Phosex® 1000 mg Tablets

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start taking your medicine. It contains important information about Phosex® 1000 mg Tablets.

- Keep the leaflet. You may want to read it again.
- If you have any questions ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you personally and you should not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

These tablets contain 1000 mg Calcium Acetate BP equivalent to 250 mg elemental calcium.

They also contain the following inactive ingredients: macrogol 8000, sodium starch glycolate, calcium stearate, lemon meringue flavour and yellow iron oxide (E172).

The Market Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer is Vitaline Pharmaceuticals UK Limited, Chiltern House, Unit P, Howland Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3GQ

WHAT Phosex® TABLETS ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE USED FOR

Phosex® Tablets belong to a group of medicines called phosphate binders. You can only get them on prescription from your doctor.

The tablets are yellow with a lemon flavour and embossed PHOS-EX on one side. They are available in packs of 180 tablets.

Phosex® is most commonly used to remove excess phosphate from your body. It is used in conjunction with advice on your diet and in addition to your other kidney treatment.

BEFORE TAKING YOUR MEDICINE

Before you start taking these tablets, tell your doctor if:

- You are pregnant, or may become pregnant, or if you are breast feeding.

- You have been given Phosex® (calcium acetate) before and had an allergic reaction.
- You have had an allergic reaction to any of the other ingredients listed above.
- You are taking any antibiotics (for infections), calcium antagonists such as verapamil (for your heart or blood pressure) or digitalis glycosides (for your heart).
- You suffer from high blood levels of calcium.

You should tell your doctor if you are taking, or have recently taken, any other medicines including the ones you have bought without a prescription.

Before taking any non-prescription antacids or indigestion medicines check that they do not contain calcium salts such as calcium carbonate. If in doubt, consult your doctor or pharmacist.

The levels of phosphate and calcium in your blood will be monitored regularly.

HOW TO TAKE YOUR MEDICINE

Take the tablets exactly as directed by your doctor. This is particularly important if you are elderly.

The usual dose of Phosex® is 1-2 tablets with each meal. You will start with one tablet with each meal and your doctor will adjust your dose as necessary over a few weeks. Exactly how many tablets, and how often you must take them, will be written on the label. Please read the label carefully.

Swallow the tablets whole with a little water. Do not chew the tablets.

If you are prescribed antibiotics, Phosex® should be taken with a meal at least three hours before or three hours after the antibiotic. Discuss the timing of your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.

You should finish all the tablets your doctor has prescribed. Even if you feel better, you should still take all the tablets you have been given – it may be dangerous to stop taking the medicine without your doctor's advice.

If you forget to take a dose with a meal, do not worry, just take the next dose with the next meal. Never take two doses together.

If you see another doctor or go into the hospital, tell them what medicines you are taking.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN OVERDOSE

If you swallow too many tablets at one time, or if you think someone else, especially a child, has swallowed any of the tablets, contact your nearest hospital casualty department or doctor immediately.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Phosex®, like most other medicines, may cause side effects in some patients, particularly when you first start to take it. These may include feeling or being sick, stomach upsets, diarrhoea or constipation.

If you develop any of these side effects and they are severe or they get worse, or last for more than a few days, contact your doctor.

If you suffer from loss of appetite, muscle weakness, excessive thirst or urine, bone pain, or if you have any other unexpected effects, tell your doctor immediately.

STORING YOUR MEDICINE

Keep your tablets in a safe place, out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not store above 25°C. Store the tablets in their original container and keep the container tightly closed.

Do not take any tablets after the expiry date printed on the container. If you have any tablets which are out of date, or which you no longer need, return them to your pharmacist for disposal.

This leaflet was last approved in May 2007.