

## PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

### **altavitaD3 25,000 IU oral solution colecalciferol**

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist, or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it onto others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, or pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet:**

1. What altavitaD3 is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use altavitaD3
3. How to use altavitaD3
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store altavitaD3
6. Contents of the pack and other information

### **1. WHAT ALTAVITAD3 IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR**

altavitaD3 is a vitamin product containing colecalciferol (equivalent to vitamin D<sub>3</sub>). Vitamin D can be found in some foods and also produced by the body when skin is exposed to sunlight. Vitamin D helps the kidneys and intestine absorb calcium and it helps build bones.

altavitaD3 25,000 IU is used:

- for the prevention of vitamin D deficiency when there is a significant risk of deficiency or an increased demand for vitamin D
- with other medicines to treat certain bone conditions, such as thinning of the bone (osteoporosis)
- to treat vitamin D deficiency that has been confirmed by laboratory tests.

### **2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU USE ALTAVITAD3**

#### **Do not use altavitaD3**

- if you are allergic to vitamin D or any of the other ingredients of altavitaD3 (listed in section 6)
- if you have hypercalcaemia (high levels of calcium in the blood)
- if you have hypercalciuria (high levels of calcium in the urine)
- if you have pseudohypoparathyroidism (disturbed parathyroid hormone metabolism)
- if you have renal calculi (kidney stones)
- if you have hypervitaminosis D (high levels of vitamin D in the blood).

#### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before using altavitaD3 if you:

- are undergoing treatment with certain medicines used to treat heart disorders (e.g., cardiac glycosides, such as digoxin)

- have sarcoidosis (an immune system disorder which may cause increased levels of vitamin D in the body)
- are taking medicines containing vitamin D, or eating foods or milk enriched with vitamin D
- are likely to be exposed to a lot of sunshine whilst using altavitaD3
- take additional supplements containing calcium. Your doctor will monitor your blood levels of calcium to make sure they are not too high whilst you are using altavitaD3
- have kidney damage or disease. Your doctor may want to measure the levels of calcium in your blood or urine.

### **Other medicines and altavitaD3**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are using, have recently used or might use any other medicines. This is especially important if you are taking:

- medicines that act on the heart or kidneys, such as cardiac glycosides (e.g. digoxin) or diuretics (e.g. bendroflumethazide). When used at the same time as vitamin D these medicines may cause a large increase in the level of calcium in the blood and urine
- medicines containing vitamin D or eating food rich in vitamin D, such as, some types of vitamin D-enriched milk
- actinomycin (a medicine used to treat some forms of cancer) and imidazole antifungals (e.g. clotrimazole and ketoconazole, medicines used to treat fungal disease). These medicines may interfere with the way your body process vitamin D
- the following medicines because they can interfere with the effect or the absorption of vitamin D:
  - antiepileptic medicines (anticonvulsants), barbiturates
  - glucocorticoids (steroid hormones such as hydrocortisone or prednisolone). These can decrease the effect of vitamin D
  - medicines that lower the level of cholesterol in the blood (such as cholestyramine, or colestipol)
  - certain medicines for weight loss that reduce the amount of fat your body absorbs (e.g. orlistat)
  - certain laxatives (such as liquid paraffin).

### **altavitaD3 with food, drink and alcohol**

You should take this medicine preferably together with a large meal to help your body absorb the vitamin D. You can also mix the solution with cold or lukewarm food, to help you take this medicine. For detailed information see section 3 “How to use altavitaD3”.

### **Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

This high strength formulation is not recommended for use in pregnant and breast feeding women.

### **Driving and using machines**

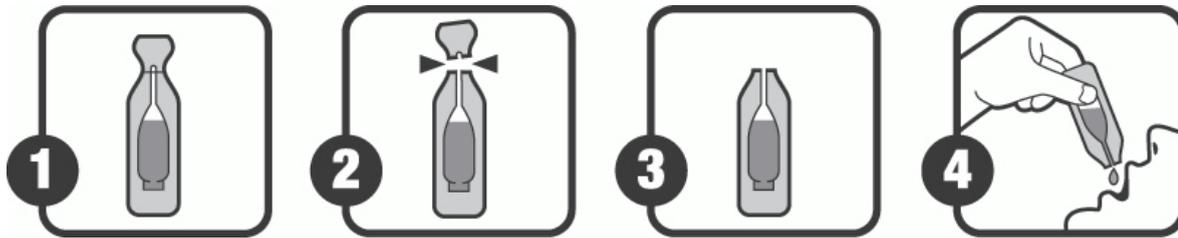
There is limited information on the possible effects of this medicine on your ability to drive. However, it is not expected that it would affect your ability to drive or to operate machinery.

## **3. HOW TO USE ALTAVITAD3**

Always take altavitaD3 exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

You should take altavitaD3 preferably together with a large meal.

This medicine has a delicate taste of olive oil. The contents of the single-dose oral solution is to be emptied directly into the mouth and swallowed orally as per the diagram below.



To help you take this medicine, the full contents of the single-dose oral solution may be emptied onto a spoon and taken orally. You may also mix the contents of the single-dose oral solution with a small amount of cold or lukewarm food immediately before use. Make sure the entire dose is taken.

### Use in children and adolescents

The recommended dose for:

- **Prevention of vitamin D deficiency in 0-1 years:**  
1 single-dose oral solution of altavitaD3 25,000 IU every 8 weeks
- **Prevention of vitamin D deficiency in 1-18 years:**  
1 single-dose oral solution of altavitaD3 25,000 IU every 6 weeks
- **Treatment of vitamin D deficiency in 0-18 years:**  
1 single-dose oral solution of altavitaD3 25,000 IU once every 2 weeks for 6 weeks (followed by maintenance therapy of 400-1000 IU/day), such as 25,000 IU (1 single-dose oral solution) per month

In children, altavitaD3 can be mixed with a small amount of children's foods, yogurt, milk, cheese or other dairy products. Do not mix this medicine into a bottle of milk or container of soft food, in case your child does not consume the whole portion, and does not receive the full dose. You should make sure that the entire dose is taken. For children who are no longer being breast fed you should give the prescribed dose with a meal.

Do not store any product or food mixture that contains altavitaD3 for use at a later time or a next meal.

### Use in pregnancy and breast-feeding

This high strength formulation is not recommended.

### Use in adults

The recommended dose for:

- **Prevention of vitamin D deficiency:**  
1 single-dose oral solution of altavitaD3 25,000 IU per month. Higher doses may be required based on the advice of your doctor.
- **Addition to specific therapy for osteoporosis:**  
1 single-dose oral solution of altavitaD3 25,000 IU per month.

- **Treatment of vitamin D deficiency:**

2 single-dose oral solutions of altavitaD3 25,000 IU once weekly for 6-8 weeks, followed by maintenance therapy (1400-2000 IU /day such as 50,000 IU (2 single-dose oral solutions) per month may be required), based on the advice of your doctor.

**If you take more altavitaD3 than you should**

If you or your child takes more medicine than prescribed, stop using this medicine and contact your doctor. If it is not possible to talk to a doctor, go to the nearest hospital emergency department and take the medicine package with you.

The most common symptoms of overdose are: nausea, vomiting, excessive thirst, the production of large amounts of urine over 24 hours, constipation and dehydration, high levels of calcium in the blood (hypercalcaemia and hypercalciuria) shown by lab test.

**If you forget to take altavitaD3**

If you forget to take a dose of altavitaD3, take the forgotten dose as soon as possible. Then take the next dose at the correct time. However, if it is almost time to take the next dose, do not take the dose you have missed; just take the next dose as normal.

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets

them. Possible side effects may include:

**Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)**

- Too much calcium in your blood (hypercalcaemia)
- Too much calcium in your urine (hypercalciuria)

**Rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)**

- Skin rash
- Itching
- Hives

**Reporting of side effects:**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRa Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL – Dublin 2; Tel: + 353 1 6764971; Fax: + 353 1 6762517. Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie); Email: [medsafety@hpra.ie](mailto:medsafety@hpra.ie). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**5. HOW TO STORE ALTAVITAD3**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and single-dose oral solution after “Exp”. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 30°C.

Store altavitaD3 in the original carton to protect the contents from light.

If the oral solution within the single-dose oral solution is discoloured or show signs of any deterioration, you should seek the advice of your pharmacist.

Do not throw away any medicine via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

## **6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

### **What altavitaD3 contains**

- The active substance is colecalciferol (vitamin D<sub>3</sub>).
- Each single-dose oral solution contains 0.625 mg colecalciferol, equivalent to 25,000 IU vitamin D.
- The other ingredients are tocopherol acetate, polyglyceryl oleate (E475), olive oil, refined, sweet orange peel oil.

### **What altavitaD3 looks like and contents of the pack**

altavitaD3 is a clear, slightly yellow, oily liquid. It is supplied in transparent PVC/PVDC/PE single-dose oral solution .

altavitaD3 is available in packs of 3 PVC/PVDC/PE single-dose oral solutions.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

#### **Marketing Authorization Holder**

Consilient Health Limited,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Beaux Lane House,  
Mercer Street Lower, Dublin 2,  
Ireland.

#### **Manufacturer**

SMB Technology S.A.  
39, rue du parc industriel  
6900 Marche en Famenne  
Belgium.

**This leaflet was last revised in March 2017.**