

## **PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER**

### **altavitaD3 400 IU soft capsules**

colecalfiferol (vitamin D3)

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using 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 on to 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 take altavitaD3
3. How to take 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 contains colecalfiferol (vitamin D3). Vitamin D3 can be found in some foods and is also produced by the body when skin is exposed to sunlight. Vitamin D3 helps the kidneys and intestine absorb calcium and it helps build bones.

altavitaD3 is used:

- to prevent vitamin D deficiency when there is a significant risk of deficiency or an increased demand for vitamin D
- with other medicine 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 TAKE ALTAVITAD3**

#### **Do not take altavitaD3:**

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

## **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking 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 D3 in the body);
- are taking medicines containing vitamin D3, or eating foods or milk enriched with vitamin D3;
- 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.

## **Children**

altavitaD3 is not suitable for children under 10 years of age.

## **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 D3;
- the following medicines because they can interfere with the effect or the absorption of vitamin D3:
  - antiepileptic medicines (anticonvulsants), barbiturates,
  - glucocorticoids (steroid hormones such as hydrocortisone or prednisolone). These can decrease the effect of vitamin D3;
  - 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 and drink**

See section 3 “How to take 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.

See section 3 “How to take altavitaD3”

### **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 TAKE ALTAVITAD3**

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

The capsules should be swallowed whole with water.

You should take altavitaD3 preferably together with a large meal to help your body absorb the vitamin D.

#### **Use in adults**

The recommended dose for:

**Prevention of vitamin D deficiency:** 800 IU/day (2 capsules)

**Addition to specific therapy for osteoporosis:** 800 IU/day (2 capsules)

#### **Use in children and adolescents**

The recommended dose for:

- **Prevention of deficiency 10-18 years:** 800 IU/day (2 capsules)
- **Treatment of deficiency 10-18 years:** 2000 IU/day (5 capsules) for 6 weeks followed by a maintenance therapy of 400 IU-1200 IU/day (1-3 capsules)

#### **Use in pregnancy and breast-feeding**

The recommended dose for:

**Prevention of deficiency:** 400 IU/day (1 capsule)

**Treatment of deficiency:** Doses of up to 2000 IU /day (5 capsules) may be required to treat deficiency in some women

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

If you or your child take 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 stop taking altavitaD3**

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 1,000 people)

- Skin rash
- Itching
- Hives

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. 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)  
e-mail: [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 after “Exp”. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 30°C.

Store in the original packaging in order to protect from light.

Do not throw away any medicines 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 D3).  
Each capsule contains 400 IU of colecalciferol (vitamin D3) equivalent to 0.01 mg.
- The other ingredients are: all-rac- $\alpha$ -tocopherol (E307), medium chain triglycerides, glycerol, gelatine, Opacode® White imprinting ink (consisting of: shellac (E904), titanium dioxide (E171) and simethicone).

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

altavitaD3 is a clear, oval-shaped, soft capsule. It contains a slightly yellow oily liquid. Each capsule has “0.4” printed in white ink. Capsule dimensions are 10.5mm x 7mm.

Each carton contains 28 capsules packed in blister strips.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

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

### **Manufacturers**

McGregor Cory Limited.  
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OX16 4RS, United Kingdom

Consilient Health Limited,  
Block 2A Richview Office Park,  
Clonskeagh, Dublin 14,  
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**This medicinal product is authorised in the following member states of the EEA under the following names:**

Ireland: altavitaD3 400 IU soft capsules

Spain: Benferol D3 400 UI cápsulas blandas

United Kingdom: InVita D3 400 IU soft capsules

**This leaflet was last revised in July 2018.**