

# CALCIPOTRIOL

**Brand name** Dovonex

**Used in the following combined preparations** Dovobet, Xamiol

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Calcipotriol is a synthetic derivative of vitamin D used in the treatment of plaque psoriasis affecting the skin and scalp. Although similar to vitamin D, outside the skin calcipotriol is weak compared to vitamin D. In the skin, it is thought to work by reducing production of the skin cells that cause skin thickening and scaling, which are the most common symptoms of psoriasis. Because this drug is related to vitamin D, excessive use can lead to a rise of calcium levels in the body, although this is very uncommon;

otherwise calcipotriol is unlikely to cause any serious adverse effects.

Calcipotriol is applied to the affected areas in the form of cream, ointment, or scalp solution. It should not be used on the face, and it is important to wash the hands following application to the affected area to avoid accidental transfer of the drug to unaffected areas. Local irritation may occur during the early stages of treatment. Excessive exposure to sunlight should be avoided while using calcipotriol.

## QUICK REFERENCE

**Drug group** Drug for psoriasis (p.138)

**Overdose danger rating** Low

**Dependence rating** Low

**Prescription needed** Yes

**Available as generic** No

## INFORMATION FOR USERS

**Your drug prescription is tailored for you. Do not alter dosage without checking with your doctor.**

### How taken/used



Cream, ointment, scalp solution.

**Frequency and timing of doses**  
1–2 x daily.

### Adult dosage range

Maximum 100g each week (cream, ointment); maximum 60ml each week (scalp solution); less if both preparations are used together.

### Onset of effect

Improvement is seen within 2 weeks.

### Duration of action

One application lasts up to 12 hours. Beneficial effects are longer lasting.

### Diet advice

None.

### Storage

Store in original container at room temperature out of the reach of children.

### Missed dose

Apply the next dose at the scheduled time.

### Stopping the drug

Do not stop the drug without consulting your doctor; symptoms may recur.

### Exceeding the dose

Excessive prolonged use may lead to an increase in blood calcium levels, which can cause nausea, constipation, thirst, abdominal pain, weakness, tiredness, and frequent urination. Notify your doctor.

## SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

### Be sure to tell your doctor if:

- You have a metabolic disorder.
- You have previously had a hypersensitivity reaction to the drug.
- You have long-term liver or kidney problems.
- You are taking other medicines.



### Pregnancy

Safety in pregnancy not established. Discuss with your doctor.



### Breast-feeding

Not known if excreted into breast milk. Discuss with your doctor.



### Infants and children

Cream/ointment not recommended under 6 years. Scalp solution, only under specialist advice.



### Over 60

No problems expected.



### Driving and hazardous work

No problems expected.



### Alcohol

No problems expected.

## POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Temporary local irritation may occur when treatment is started. The other effects are uncommon and usually due to heavy or

prolonged use, leading to high blood calcium levels.

Symptom/effect	Frequency		Discuss with doctor		Stop taking drug now	Call doctor now
	Common	Rare	Only if severe	In all cases		
Local irritation/itching	●		●			
Dry skin/pigmentation	●		●			
Rash on face/mouth		●		●		
Thirst/frequent urination		●		●		
Nausea/constipation		●		●		
Light-sensitive rash		●		●		
Abdominal pain		●		●	●	
Weakness/tiredness		●		●	●	
Confusion		●	●		●	
Worsening psoriasis		●		●	●	

## INTERACTIONS

None known.

## PROLONGED USE

No problems expected from use of calcipotriol in low doses. If the effects of the skin preparation decline after several weeks, they may be regained by suspending use for a few weeks and then recommencing treatment.

**Monitoring** Regular checks on calcium levels in the blood or urine are required only during prolonged or heavy use.