

PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL DATE: 08/94

Revised Date: 09/02

SUBJECT: CALCITONIN (CALCIMAR), ADMINISTRATION OF

PURPOSE: To safely administer Calcitonin IM or SC in the home.

General Information

Calcitonin (Calcimar) decreases osteoclastic activity by inhibiting osteocytic osteolysis. It also decreases mineral release and matrix or collagen breakdown in bone. It is indicated in Paget's disease of bone and postmenopausal osteoporosis. Human calcitonin is stored at room temperature. Salmon calcitonin is stored in the refrigerator. Freshly constituted solution is to be used within 2 hours.

Adverse Reactions

Reaction may include headache, transient nausea with or without vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, hyperglycemia, inflammation at injection site, skin rash, facial flushing, swelling, tingling and tenderness of hands, unusual taste sensation, anaphylaxis.

Laboratory Monitoring

Periodic serum alkaline phosphatase and 24-hour urine hydroxyproline levels should be used to evaluate drug effect.

Administration

Drug is given subcutaneously. Systemic allergic reactions are possible since hormone is protein. **KEEP EPINEPHRINE HANDY WHEN ADMINISTERING.**

Policy

1. Nurses may administer the first dose of Calcitonin (Calcimar) in the home only with an order from the patient's physician.
2. The dosage is determined by the physician. Nurses are expected to know acceptable dose range. Contact nurse manager if order is outside recommended range.
3. The nurse must stay in the home with the patient for at least 15 minutes following the injection. Observe for any allergic reaction.
4. Follow agency procedure for IM injection (policy #2052)/SC injection (policy #2051).
5. In case of an allergic reaction, follow agency policy (#2000).