Important Copyright Message

The Medical Letter® publications are protected by US and international copyright laws. Forwarding, copying or any distribution of this material is prohibited.

Sharing a password with a non-subscriber or otherwise making the contents of this site available to third parties is strictly prohibited.

By accessing and reading the attached content I agree to comply with US and international copyright laws and these terms and conditions of The Medical Letter, Inc.

For further information click: Subscriptions, Site Licenses, Reprints
or call customer service at: 800-211-2769

FORWARDING OR COPYING IS A VIOLATION OF US AND INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT LAWS
IN BRIEF

Cancer Risk with Salmon Calcitonin

Two FDA advisory committees recently concluded that use of a nasal spray formulation of the peptide hormone salmon calcitonin for treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis is associated with an increased risk of cancer. Salmon calcitonin is available as 2 nasal sprays (Miacalcin, Fortical) and an injectable formulation (Miacalcin Injection) for use in osteoporosis.¹

The new cancer concern arose from the results of an unpublished meta-analysis that included 18 studies of Miacalcin Nasal Spray in which the risk of any cancer was 1.54 times greater (95% CI: 1.06, 2.23) in patients who used the drug compared to controls.²

An earlier 5-year trial in >1200 postmenopausal women with osteoporosis also found that use of calcitonin was associated with a small, but statistically significant, increase in the risk of any malignancy (OR 1.62, 95% CI: 1.00, 2.61).² New vertebral fractures occurred in 51 of 287 women (18%) receiving a 200 IU dose of calcitonin nasal spray once daily and in 70 of 270 women (26%) receiving placebo, a statistically significant difference.³

The advisory committees, meeting jointly, weighed the risk against the benefits of the drug and concluded that women should no longer use salmon calcitonin nasal spray for treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis. The FDA now has to decide whether to approve their recommendations.
