Katacalcin

Also called: PDN-21; katakalcin; calcitonin carboxyl-terminal flanking peptide

What it is

Katacalcin is the 21-residue C-terminal piece of the calcitonin precursor, found in 1983 in the blood of healthy volunteers and raised in medullary thyroid carcinoma (PMID 6132180). Normal C cells release it with calcitonin when calcium rises (PMID 3350911), and in thyroid cancer it tracks calcitonin closely (PMID 1569295). It has been measured, never given.

Approval status

Research Chemical. Not a medicine: katacalcin has only been measured in people, by radioimmunoassay (PMID 3902867), never given. Drugs@FDA (openFDA) and the EMA medicines list return no record (November 3, 2026).

Dosing, as printed in the page's Recommended Dosing box

No established human dose

No study read has given katacalcin to a person. Every human study on this page measures it: in blood the body has released, in tissue sections, in milk and in seminal fluid.

Educational information, not medical advice. None is a recommendation for you. An unapproved compound has no established safe or effective human dose, and products sold for "research use only" are not made or tested for people. Talk to a doctor before acting on anything on this site, including before you start, stop or change any medicine or dose.

Key human evidence

The first 3 of the 22 human studies carded on the page (24 study cards in all):

• **Named, measured and proposed as a hormone** (Human, 1983). The paper that named katacalcin reported it in the plasma of all 57 healthy volunteers tested, at levels higher in men than in women and roughly matching calcitonin mole for mole. Its level doubled within five minutes of a calcium infusion and was greatly raised in 20 people with medullary thyroid carcinoma. The authors described it as a calcium-lowering hormone and suggested it might help in bone disease; the abstract does not say how the calcium effect was shown. **PMID 6132180**

• **Found in the same thyroid cells as calcitonin** (Human, 1983). Antibodies raised against synthetic katacalcin and against calcitonin were used on tissue from 8 medullary thyroid carcinomas and 6 normal thyroids, three adult and three fetal. In every sample both peptides sat in the same C cells, normal or cancerous, under the light and the electron microscope. The study showed that a peptide predicted only from a gene sequence could be found in real tissue. **PMID 6348069**

• **Levels compared in Gambian and British adults** (Human, 1984). Blood calcitonin and katacalcin were measured in black Gambian and white British adults to look for a reason why osteoporosis is more common in some groups. Men had higher levels of both peptides than women. The finding the authors stressed concerned calcitonin: white women had the lowest calcitonin of any group. **PMID 6442208**

Interactions

A PubMed search for interaction studies of this compound with any drug (November 3, 2026, 0 records) found none in people. That is not evidence that it is safe to combine with anything.

Side effects and cautions

Reported side effects	Contraindications and cautions
• Every human study read measured the peptide the body releases; none gave it (PMID 3902867) • The only applied-peptide work used human monocytes in a dish and mice (PMIDs 12369791, 2784248)	• Not a medicine: there is no approved product and no treatment dose • A katacalcin level is a research reading; calcitonin is the marker most of these studies compared it with • A cell effect seen in a dish has not been tested in people

Five questions to ask

1. Katacalcin is listed here as "Research Chemical". What does the evidence on this sheet mean for someone in my situation, and is there an approved treatment I should consider instead?
2. Here are the medicines and supplements I take. Do any of them interact with Katacalcin? This sheet records none published, which does not mean none exist.
3. Which side effects should make me stop and call you, for example every human study read measured the peptide the body releases?
4. Do any of the cautions on this sheet apply to me, such as: Not a medicine: there is no approved product and no treatment dose?
5. What should we check before I start and while I am on it (blood tests, blood pressure, weight), and how often?

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