

## Teriparatide

Teriparatide targets the body's bone building cells - the "osteoblasts" - stimulating these cells to start building new bone.

### ***What is it called?***

Teriparatide    Teva-Teriparatide (generic brand)  
                    Forteo®

### ***How does it work?***

This medication builds new bone within your skeleton.

### ***How do I take it?***

This medication is given as a subcutaneous (under the skin) injection every day. People who are taking teriparatide need to give themselves an injection of this medication each day.

### ***How long do I take it for?***

This medication has been approved to use for 2 years. After the 2-year treatment period, many primary healthcare providers recommend treatment with another medication (such as a bisphosphonate) to maintain the benefits of the teriparatide.

### ***Who should not take this medication?***

People who have had cancer of the bones, or a bone disease called "Paget's disease" should not take this medication.

### ***What side effects might I expect?***

In some people, this medication may be associated with leg cramps, aches and pains, dizziness, and nausea.

Early studies of this medication done in rats found that some of the rats developed a type of bone cancer (osteosarcoma) after taking this medication. This has never been reported in human clinical trials. However, treatment exceeding 2 years is not recommended due to lack of long-term studies.

### ***What are the costs involved?***

Teriparatide costs ~ \$640 per month (generic). This medication is not usually covered by drug plans. Coverage is sometimes available, in extenuating circumstances.