Calcitonin

Calcitonin is released by the parafollicular cells of the thyroid gland, which derive from neural crest via the ultimobranchial body. Its utility as a tumor marker exceeds its physiologic function; although it counteracts the actions of PTH, calcitonin lacks potency. Neither excess nor a total lack of calcitonin causes a major change in the body. The pharmacologic role of calcitonin is in the prevention of bone resorption and it can be used in the treatment of osteoporosis, hypercalcemia and Paget’s disease of bone.

References: