PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Scopolamine

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US

Transderm Scop; Transderm-Scop [DSC]

Brand Names: Canada

ACCEL-Hyoscine; Buscopan

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to help motion sickness.
- It is used to treat GI (gastrointestinal) spasms.
- It is used to prevent upset stomach and throwing up from surgery.
- It is used during surgery.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

All products:

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have any of these health problems: Chest pain, enlarged colon, glaucoma, a fast heartbeat, heart failure (weak heart), myasthenia gravis, stomach or bowel block or narrowing, or trouble passing urine.

- If you have high blood pressure during pregnancy (preeclampsia).

Tablets:

- If you have rare hereditary health problems like glucose-galactose malabsorption, fructose intolerance, or sucrase-isomaltase deficiency.
- If you have lactose intolerance.

Injection (if given in the muscle):

- If you are taking a blood thinner.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

All products:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert or have clear eyesight until you see how this drug affects you.
- To lower the chance of feeling dizzy or passing out, rise slowly if you have been sitting or lying down. Be careful going up and down stairs.
- This drug may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take this drug.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking this drug.
- Talk with your doctor before you use marijuana, other forms of cannabis, or prescription or OTC drugs that may slow your actions.

- If you will be taking part in underwater sports, talk with your doctor. This drug may cause you to feel lost or confused.
- This drug may raise the chance of seizures in some people, including people who have had seizures in the past. Talk to your doctor to see if you have a greater chance of seizures while taking this drug.
- Bright lights may bother you. Wear sunglasses.
- Be careful in hot weather or while being active. Drink lots of fluids to stop fluid loss.
- Do not use for longer than you were told by your doctor.
- If you have been taking this drug on a regular basis and you stop it all of a sudden, you may have signs of withdrawal. Do not stop taking this drug all of a sudden without calling your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any bad effects.
- This drug is not approved for use in children. Children may have a higher risk of some side effects like nerve problems, mental changes, eyesight problems, and severe high body temperature. However, the doctor may decide the benefits of taking this drug outweigh the risks. If your child has been given this drug, ask the doctor for information about the benefits and risks. Talk with the doctor if you have questions about giving this drug to your child.
- If you are 60 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects, including decreased sweating, overheating, and severe high body temperature.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

Skin patch:

- The patch may have metal. Take off the patch before an MRI.
- Some people may have certain signs 24 hours or more after taking the patch off. Call your doctor right away if you have dizziness, very upset stomach or

throwing up, headache, problems with balance or walking, very bad dizziness or passing out, muscle weakness, or slow heartbeat.

- High body temperatures and problems with heat that may need to be treated in a hospital have happened with this drug. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Most of the time, high body temperature happened within 72 hours after first using this drug. Avoid use of heat sources (such as heating pads or electric blankets). If you have questions, talk with the doctor.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- A fast heartbeat.
- Trouble passing urine.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- Seeing halos or bright colors around lights.
- Red eyes.
- Larger pupils.
- Seizures.
- Trouble speaking.
- Mental, mood, or behavior changes that are new or worse.
- Feeling confused.
- Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there).

- Memory problems or loss.
- Shortness of breath.
- Feeling hot.
- Fever.
- Not sweating during activities or in warm temperatures.
- Call your doctor right away if you have severe stomach pain that lasts or gets worse. Call your doctor right away if stomach pain happens with fever, upset stomach or throwing up, change in bowel movements, tender stomach, very bad dizziness or passing out, or blood in the stool.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

All products:

- Dry mouth.
- Feeling dizzy or sleepy.
- Diarrhea.
- Upset stomach.
- Sore throat.
- Restlessness.

Skin patch:

- Irritation where this drug was used.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

Skin patch:

- Do not take this drug by mouth. Use on your skin only. Keep out of your mouth and eyes (may burn).
- Do not cut or divide patches. Do not use patches that are damaged.
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Put the patch on dry, hairless skin behind the ear. Be sure you know when to put the patch on. If you are not sure, talk with the doctor.
- Wear only one patch at a time.
- Do not touch the patch while it is on your skin.
- Be careful to not knock loose the patch while bathing or showering.
- If the patch falls off, put a new one on.
- If using for motion sickness and this drug is needed for more than 3 days, throw away the old patch. Put a new one on behind the other ear.
- When patch is taken off, wash site with soap and water.
- After you take off a skin patch, be sure to fold the sticky sides of the patch to each other. Throw away used patches where children and pets cannot get to them.

Tablets:

- Swallow whole with a full glass of water.

Injection:

- It is given as a shot into a muscle, vein, or into the fatty part of the skin.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

Skin patch:

- Put on a missed patch as soon as you think about it after taking off the old one.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not put on more than 1 patch at a time.
- Many times this drug is used on an as needed basis. Do not use more often than told by the doctor.

Tablets:

- Skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- Many times this drug is taken on an as needed basis. Do not take more often than told by the doctor.

Injection:

- Call your doctor to find out what to do.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

Skin patch:

- Store in an upright position at room temperature.
- Do not bend or roll the foil pouch.

Tablets:

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Protect from heat and light.

Injection:

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

All products:

- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms.

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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