MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Dimenhydrinate

This information from Lexicomp® 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

Dramamine [OTC]; Driminate [OTC]; GoodSense Motion Sickness [OTC] [DSC]

Brand Names: Canada

Gravol; Gravol Comfort Shaped Suppositories; Gravol Kids Comfort Shaped Suppositories

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to help motion sickness.
- It is used to treat or prevent upset stomach and throwing up.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

All products:

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.
- If your child has any of these health problems: Glaucoma, lung or breathing problems, or prostate problems.
- If your child has taken certain drugs for depression or certain other health problems in the last 14 days. This includes isocarboxazid,

phenelzine, or tranylcypromine. Very high blood pressure may happen.

- If your child is taking any of these drugs: Linezolid or methylene blue.

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Talk with the doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby or plans to breast-feed a baby.

Injection:

- If the patient is a newborn or infant. This drug has benzyl alcohol in it. If possible, avoid products with benzyl alcohol in newborns or infants. Serious side effects can happen in these children with some doses of benzyl alcohol, including if given with other drugs that have benzyl alcohol.

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

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

What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Do not give your child more of this drug than what the doctor told you to give. Giving more of this drug than you are told may raise the chance of severe side effects.
- Do not have your child use longer than you have been told by your child's doctor.
- Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness until you see

how this drug affects your child. These are things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, toy cars, or motorized vehicles.

- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- Talk with your child’s doctor before your child uses marijuana, other forms of cannabis, or prescription or OTC drugs that may slow your child’s actions.
- This drug may affect allergy skin tests. Be sure the doctor and lab workers know your child takes this drug.
- If your child has phenylketonuria (PKU), talk with your child’s doctor. Some products have phenylalanine.
- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of some side effects may be higher in children.
- Do not give this drug to a child younger than 2 years old without first checking with the doctor.

If your child is pregnant:

- Tell the doctor if your child is pregnant or becomes pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of your child using this drug while pregnant.

What are some side effects that I need to call my child’s 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 child’s doctor or get medical help right away if your child has 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.

- Trouble passing urine.
- Pain when passing urine.
- A fast heartbeat.
- Blurred eyesight.
- Restlessness.

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 child’s doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

All products:

- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Dry mouth, nose, or throat.
- Thickening of mucus in nose or throat.
- Feeling nervous and excitable.
- Headache.
- Decreased appetite.
- Stomach pain.
- Upset stomach.
- Trouble sleeping.

Injection:

- Pain where the shot was given.

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

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child’s doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

All oral products:

- Give this drug with or without food.
- If this drug is used to prevent motion sickness, give 30 to 60 minutes before travel.

Liquid (syrup):

- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.

Chewable tablets:

- Have your child chew well before swallowing.

Suppository:

- Use suppository rectally.
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- If this drug is used to prevent motion sickness, give 30 to 60 minutes before travel.

Injection:

- It is given as a shot into a muscle or vein.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

Oral products and suppository:

- If your child takes this drug on a regular basis, give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your child’s next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child’s normal time.
- Do not give 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- Many times this drug is given on an as needed basis. Do not give to your child more often than told by the doctor.

Injection:

- Call your child’s doctor to find out what to do.

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

Oral products and suppository:

- Store in the original container at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

Injection:

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your child’s 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 child’s symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child’s doctor.
- Do not share your child’s drug with others and do not give anyone else’s drug to your child.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child’s 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.

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your care team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5 p.m., during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

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

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