MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Ivacaftor

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

Kalydeco

## Brand Names: Canada

Kalydeco

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat cystic fibrosis.

## 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 liver disease.
- If your child takes any other drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins). There are many drugs that interact with this drug, like certain drugs that are used for HIV, infections, or seizures.

### Tablets:

- If the patient is a child younger than 6 years of age. A different form of this drug may be needed.

### Granules:

- If the patient is a child younger than 1 month of age. Do not give this drug to a child younger than 1 month of age.

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.
- Have your child's blood work and lung function checked as you have been told by the 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.
- Avoid giving your child grapefruit and grapefruit juice.
- Cataracts have happened in children taking this drug. Be sure your child has an eye exam before starting this drug and while taking it. Talk with the doctor.

### If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:

- Talk with the doctor if your child is pregnant, becomes pregnant, or is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to your child and the baby.

## 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.
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Signs of high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, unusual thirst or hunger, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit.
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- Change in eyesight.
- Chest pain.

## 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:

- Dizziness or headache.

- Signs of a common cold.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Stomach pain or diarrhea.
- Upset stomach.
- Pimples (acne).
- Muscle or joint pain.

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.

### Tablets:

- Have your child swallow this drug whole.
- Give this drug with fatty foods. There are many fatty foods. Some of these are eggs; butter; peanut butter; cheese pizza; or whole-milk dairy products like whole milk, cheese, or yogurt. If you are not sure what types of foods are fatty, talk with the doctor.
- Give doses about 12 hours apart.
- Keep giving this drug to your child as you have been told by your child’s doctor or other health care provider, even if your child feels well.

### Granules:

- Mix the contents of the packet with 1 teaspoon (5 mL) of soft food or liquid. This includes pureed fruits or vegetables, yogurt, applesauce, water, breast milk, baby formula, milk, or juice. Food or liquid needs to

be at or below room temperature.

- Give this drug within 1 hour of mixing.
- Give this drug just before or just after fatty foods. There are many fatty foods. Some of these are eggs; butter; peanut butter; cheese pizza; whole-milk dairy products like whole-milk, cheese, or yogurt; breast milk; or infant formula. If you are not sure what types of foods are fatty, talk with your doctor.
- Give doses about 12 hours apart.
- Keep giving this drug to your child as you have been told by your child's doctor or other health care provider, even if your child feels well.

## What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it has been 6 hours or more since the missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- If you are not sure what to do if your child misses a dose, call the doctor.

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

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

## 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.

## Last Reviewed Date

2023-08-21

## Copyright

© 2024 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors. All rights reserved.

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.

Ivacaftor - Last updated on December 12, 2022
All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center