Cyproterone and Ethinyl Estradiol

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: Canada
Cleo-35; Cyestra-35; Diane-35; RAN-Cyproterone/Eth Estradiol; TEVA-Cyproterone/Eth Estradiol

Warning

- This drug may raise the chance of blood clots. Do not take this drug if you have a blood clot or have had blood clots in the past. Talk with your doctor.
- There are many other drugs like this drug. Do not take this drug with these drugs. Talk with your doctor if you are not sure.
- This drug is not to be used for birth control. However, this drug may provide birth control if taken as told. Talk with the doctor.
- Keep taking this drug until your doctor tells you to stop taking it.
- Do not smoke while taking this drug. Cigarette smoking raises the chance of very bad heart problems. This chance is higher with age (older than 35 years of age) and with heavy smoking (15 or more cigarettes per day).

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat pimples (acne).

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

For all patients taking this drug:
- If you have an allergy to cyproterone, ethinyl estradiol, or any other part of this drug.
- If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- If you have had any of these health problems: Blood clots, blood clotting problem, breast cancer, chest pain caused by angina, diabetes that affects blood flow, diseased arteries in the brain, eye or eyesight problems, heart disease, heart attack, high blood pressure, liver disease, liver tumor, stroke, very bad headaches or migraines, or yellow skin or eyes.
- If you have had any of these health problems: Endometrial cancer, cancer of the cervix or vagina, or vaginal bleeding where the cause is not known.
- If you have ever had a cancer where hormones make it grow.
- If you have had a health problem that led to loss of hearing (otosclerosis) during a past pregnancy.
- If you turned yellow during pregnancy or with estrogen-based or hormone contraceptive use.
- If you are taking ombitasvir, paritaprevir, and ritonavir (with or without dasabuvir).
- If you are taking aminocaproic acid.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not take this drug if you are pregnant.
- If you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.

Children:

- If your child has not started having menstrual periods.

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?**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists. This drug may need to be stopped before certain types of surgery as your doctor has told you. If this drug is stopped, your doctor will tell you when to start taking this drug again after your surgery or procedure.

- Use care if you have risks for heart disease (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, overweight, high blood sugar or diabetes, cigarette smoking, man older than 40 years of age, other family members with early heart disease, woman after change of life). Talk with your doctor.

- Blood clots have happened with this drug. Sometimes, blood clots like heart attack and stroke have been deadly. Talk with the doctor.

- If you will need to be still for long periods of time like on long trips, bedrest after surgery, or illness.

- High blood pressure has happened with drugs like this one. Have your blood pressure checked as you have been told by your doctor.

- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.

- If you have high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your blood sugar closely.

- This drug may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take this drug.

- Be sure to have regular breast exams and gynecology check-ups. Your doctor will tell you how often to have these. You will also need to do breast self-exams as your doctor has told you. Talk with your doctor.

- Talk with your doctor before you drink alcohol.

- This drug does not stop the spread of diseases like HIV or hepatitis that are passed through blood or having sex. Do not have any kind of sex without using a latex or polyurethane condom. Do not share needles or other things
like toothbrushes or razors. Talk with your doctor.

- This drug may cause dark patches of skin on your face. Avoid sun, sunlamps, and tanning beds. Use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protects you from the sun.

- This drug is not approved for use in women who are going through or have been through the change of life (menopause). Talk with your doctor.

- Certain drugs, herbal products, or health problems could cause this drug to not work as well. Be sure your doctor knows about all of your drugs and health problems.

- If you have not taken this drug as you have been told, you may need to use a non-hormone type of birth control like condoms to prevent pregnancy. Talk with your doctor.

- If you want to get pregnant after stopping this drug, talk with your doctor. You may need to prevent pregnancy until you have at least 1 monthly period (menstrual) cycle. Talk with your doctor about what kind of birth control to use.

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant.

- A pregnancy test will be done to show that you are NOT pregnant before starting this drug. If you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away.

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.

- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset
stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.

- Signs of gallstones like sudden pain in the upper right belly area, right shoulder area, or between the shoulder blades; yellow skin or eyes; or fever with chills.
- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Swelling, warmth, numbness, change of color, or pain in a leg or arm.
- Shortness of breath.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Coughing up blood.
- Fast breathing.
- Anxiety.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- A fast heartbeat.
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Low mood (depression).
- Mood changes.
- Very bad belly pain.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or very bad eye irritation.
- Change in how contact lenses feel in the eyes.
- A lump in the breast or breast soreness.
- Vaginal bleeding that is not normal.
- Change in sex interest.
- The chance of heart attack or stroke due to blood clots may be raised. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of heart attack like chest pain that may spread to the arms, neck, jaw, back, or stomach; abnormal sweating; or feeling sick or throwing up. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of stroke like weakness on 1 side of the body; eyesight, speech, or balance
problems; drooping on 1 side of the face; feeling confused; or severe headache.

**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:

- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Headache.
- Feeling nervous and excitable.
- Weight gain or loss.
- Feeling more or less hungry.
- Runny nose.
- Stuffy nose.
- Period (menstrual) changes. These include lots of bleeding, spotting, or bleeding between cycles.

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.

**How is this drug best taken?**

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

- Follow how to use as you have been told by the doctor or read the package insert.
- To gain the most benefit, do not miss doses.
- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- If your period is delayed for more than 7 days, talk with your doctor. Do not start a new pack.
• If you throw up or have diarrhea, this drug may not work as well to prevent pregnancy. Use an extra form of birth control, like condoms, until you check with your doctor.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

• Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
• If it has been 12 hours or more since the missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
• Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

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

• Store at room temperature.
• Store 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 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.
• Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your doctor.
• Talk with the doctor before starting any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
• 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.
• 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 information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

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For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.