



## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Dextrose

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**

Glucose Nursette [OTC]; Glutol [OTC]; Good Start 5% Glucose Water [OTC]; Insta-Glucose [OTC]

### **Brand Names: Canada**

Dextroject; Glucodex

### **What is this drug used for?**

#### **All products:**

- It is used to treat low blood sugar.

#### **Injection:**

- Some products are used to add fluid to the body after fluid loss, to mix with certain drugs that are given as an injection, or to add calories to a TPN.

### **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.

## **Injection:**

- If you have any of these health problems: Bleeding in the brain or spine, severe dehydration, severe liver problems, or trouble passing urine.

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.
- 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.

### **All oral products:**

- Check your blood sugar as you have been told by your doctor.
- Do not give the oral drug to someone who has passed out.

### **Injection:**

- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may contain aluminum. There is a chance of aluminum toxicity if you are on this drug for a long time. The risk is greater if you have kidney problems. The risk is also higher in premature infants. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may be mixed into parenteral nutrition (PN). Blood clots in the lungs, infections, high blood sugar, and liver problems have happened with PN. Sometimes, deaths from blood clots in the lungs have happened. If you have any questions, talk with the doctor.
- Use with care in newborns. 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:

### **All products:**

- 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.
- Very bad dizziness or passing out.

### **All oral products:**

- Blood sugar stays low after stopping the drug.

### **Injection:**

- Signs of fluid and electrolyte problems like mood changes, confusion, muscle pain or weakness, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, very bad dizziness or passing out, fast heartbeat, more thirst, seizures, feeling very tired or weak, not hungry, unable to pass urine or change in the amount of urine produced, dry mouth, dry eyes, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.
- Change in color of skin to a bluish color like on the lips, nail beds, fingers, or toes.

- Fever or chills.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Pain and irritation where this drug goes into the body.

### **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 oral products:**

- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Diarrhea.

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.

## **All oral products:**

- Make sure to swallow this drug.
- You may repeat in 10 minutes if blood sugar is still low.

## **Chewable tablet:**

- Chew well before swallowing.

## **Injection:**

- It is given into a vein for a period of time.

## **What do I do if I miss a dose?**

### **All oral products:**

- 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?**

### **All oral products:**

- Store 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 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 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.

## **Last Reviewed Date**

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

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

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