MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Diphenoxylate and Atropine

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

Lomotil

Brand Names: Canada

Lomotil

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat diarrhea.

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:

Diarrhea caused by infection, diarrhea caused by a severe bowel problem (pseudomembranous colitis), or yellowing of the skin or eyes.

- If your child is dehydrated or has electrolyte problems.
- If your child is taking certain drugs used for depression like isocarboxazid, phenelzine, or tranylcypromine, or drugs used for certain other health problems like selegiline or rasagiline.
- If your child is taking any of these drugs: Linezolid or methylene blue.

Tablets:

- If the patient is a child younger than 13 years of age. This drug is not approved for use in these children. Do not give this drug to a child younger than 6 years of age.

Liquid:

- If the patient is a child younger than 2 years of age. Do not give this drug to a child younger than 2 years 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 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.
- Talk with the doctor about having your child drink lots of fluids and other ways to prevent fluid loss. If your

child has a lot of fluid loss, your child may have more side effects from this drug.

- Keep away from children. Accidental exposure and overdose may result in very bad breathing problems or coma. These could lead to long lasting brain damage and sometimes death. If a child takes this drug by accident, get medical help right away.
- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of some side effects may be higher in children.

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 a pancreas problem (pancreatitis) like very bad stomach pain, very bad back pain, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.
- Trouble breathing, slow breathing, or shallow breathing.
- Numbness or tingling in the hands or feet.
- Fever.
- A fast heartbeat.
- Trouble passing urine.
- Flushing.
- Dry mouth, skin, or eyes.
- Fast breathing.
- Feeling sluggish.
- Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there).
- Seizures.
- Larger pupils.
- Small pupils.

- Depression or other mood changes.
- Behavior problems.
- Feeling confused.
- Restlessness.
- Change in eyesight.
- Swelling of belly.
- Severe constipation or stomach pain. These may be signs of a severe bowel problem.

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:

- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Headache.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Decreased appetite.
- Stomach 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.

All products:

- Give this drug with or without food.

Liquid:

- Use the dropper that comes with this drug to measure the drug.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- This drug is given on an as needed basis. Do not give to your child more often than told by the doctor.

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

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Store this drug in a safe place where children cannot see or reach it, and where other people cannot get to

it. A locked box or area may help keep this drug safe. Keep all drugs away from 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.

Liquid:

- Throw away any part not used 90 days after opening.

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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