MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Ethacrynic Acid

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

Edecrin; Sodium Edecrin

Brand Names: Canada

Edecrin; Sodium Edecrin [DSC]; VPI-Ethacrynate Sodium

Warning

- This drug is a strong fluid-lowering drug (diuretic). Sometimes too much water and electrolytes (like potassium) in the blood may be lost. This can lead to severe health problems. The doctor will follow your child closely to change the dose to match your child’s body’s needs.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to get rid of extra fluid.

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

- 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 is not able to pass urine.
- If this drug caused severe diarrhea before.
- If your child is taking lithium.
- If your child is taking any drugs that can raise the chance of hearing problems. There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your child’s doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If your child is an infant. Do not give this drug to an infant.

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.
- To lower the chance of feeling dizzy or passing out, have your child rise slowly if your child has been sitting or lying down. Have your child be careful going up and down stairs.
- If your child has high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your child's blood sugar closely.
- Have your child's blood pressure checked as you have been told.
- Have your child's blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.

- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- If your child is on a low-salt or salt-free diet, talk with your child’s doctor.
- Your child may need extra potassium. Talk with the doctor.
- If your child is taking this drug and has high blood pressure, talk with the doctor before giving OTC products that may raise blood pressure. These include cough or cold drugs, diet pills, stimulants, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen or naproxen, and some natural products or aids.
- Watch for gout attacks.

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 fluid and electrolyte problems like mood changes, confusion, muscle pain or weakness, fast or abnormal heartbeat, severe dizziness or passing out, increased thirst, seizures, feeling very tired or weak, decreased appetite, unable to pass urine or change in the amount of urine produced, dry mouth, dry eyes, or severe upset stomach or throwing up.
- Change in eyesight.
- Fever, chills, or sore throat.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Throwing up blood or throw up that looks like coffee grounds.
- Black, tarry, or bloody stools.

- Blood in the urine.
- Feeling confused.
- Hearing problems like lowered hearing and loss of hearing have happened with this drug. Sometimes this may go away but sometimes it may not. Call the doctor right away if your child has ringing in the ears or any change in hearing.
- Tell your child’s doctor if your child has signs of high or low blood sugar like breath that smells like fruit, dizziness, fast breathing, fast heartbeat, feeling confused, feeling sleepy, feeling weak, flushing, headache, unusual thirst or hunger, passing urine more often, shaking, or sweating.

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 tired or weak.
- Headache.
- Diarrhea, stomach pain, upset stomach, throwing up, or decreased appetite.

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:

- Give after meals.
- This drug may cause your child to pass urine more often. To keep your child from having sleep problems, try not to give too close to bedtime.

Injection:

- It is given as a shot into a vein.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?
Tablets:

- 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.

Injection:

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

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

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep lid tightly closed.

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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