MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Ezetimibe and Simvastatin

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

Vytorin

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to lower bad cholesterol, lower triglycerides, and raise good cholesterol (HDL).
- It is used in some people to lower the chance of heart attack, stroke, and certain heart procedures.
- It is used to lower the chance of death from heart disease in certain people.

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 taking any drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) that must not be taken with this drug, like certain drugs that are used for HIV, infections, or depression. There are many drugs that must not be taken with this drug.
- If your child has liver disease or raised liver enzymes.

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

- Do not give this drug to your child during pregnancy.
- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby while taking this drug.

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.
- If your child has high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your child's blood sugar closely.
- Have your child's blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- Have your child follow the diet and workout plan your child's doctor told you about.
- Do not give colestipol, cholestyramine, or colesevelam within 4 hours before or 2 hours after this drug.
- This drug may cause muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness. Sometimes, this may be severe and lead to kidney problems. Rarely, deaths have happened. The risk may be raised if your child has thyroid problems, kidney problems, infection, low blood pressure, or seizures. It may also be raised if your child takes certain other drugs or is dehydrated. Talk with the doctor if you have questions.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- Avoid giving your child grapefruit and grapefruit

juice.

- If your child is of Chinese descent, talk with your child’s doctor. Your child could have a greater risk of muscle problems.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. Your child must use birth control while taking this drug. If your child gets pregnant, call your child’s doctor right away.

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.
- Not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is

passed.

- Call the doctor if your child has muscle problems like abnormal muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness (with or without fever). If the doctor tells your child to stop this drug but the muscle problems do not go away, call the doctor.
- Liver problems have happened with drugs like this one. Rarely, this has been deadly. Call the doctor right away if your child has 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.

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:

- Headache.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Diarrhea.

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.

- Give in the evening.
- Give this drug with or without food.
- 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 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.

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

- Store tablets in the original container at room temperature. Keep the cap tightly closed.
- Protect from light.
- 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 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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Last Reviewed Date

2024-03-19

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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.

Ezetimibe and Simvastatin - Last updated on December 12, 2022
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