MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Grass Pollen Allergen Extract (Timothy Grass

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

Grastek

Brand Names: Canada

Grastek

Warning

- Allergic reactions have happened with this drug. Rarely, some reactions can be very bad or life-threatening. Talk with the doctor.
- The first dose will be given in a doctor’s office.
- The doctor will give you another drug (epinephrine) to give in case of an allergic reaction. Be sure you know how and when to give it. Certain drugs may make epinephrine not work as well or raise the chance of side effects. This includes some drugs used to treat depression, heart problems, or high blood pressure. There are many drugs that interact with epinephrine. Talk with the doctor or pharmacist to make sure it is safe to give epinephrine with all of your child’s drugs.
- Do not give this drug to your child if they have severe asthma or asthma that is not controlled.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat allergies caused by Timothy grass pollen.

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 has ever had any of these health problems: Eosinophilic esophagitis or a very bad allergic reaction.

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.
- This drug will not help allergy signs get better if the signs are already present. Talk with the doctor.
- If your child is getting allergy shots or taking other drugs like this one under the tongue, talk with your child's doctor. Using these drugs at the same time may raise the chance of a very bad allergic reaction.
- This drug is most useful if started before contact with the allergen. Give to your child at least 12 weeks before.
- Have your child take this drug as long as you were told by the doctor.
- If your child has asthma and it gets harder to control or if your child has trouble breathing, call the doctor right away.

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.
- Trouble swallowing or speaking.
- Pain with swallowing.
- Heartburn.
- Chest pain or pressure, a fast heartbeat, or passing out.
- Dizziness.
- Flushing.
- Shortness of breath.
- High-pitched abnormal breathing sound.
- Cough that does not go away.
- Severe diarrhea.
- Severe upset stomach or throwing up.
- Stomach cramps.
- Severe stomach pain.
- Very bad mouth irritation.
- Redness or white patches in mouth or throat.

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:

- Itching in the ear, mouth, or tongue.
- Numbness or tingling in the mouth.
- Throat irritation.

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.

- Be sure your hands are dry before you touch this drug.
- Do not take this drug out of the blister pack until you are ready to give this drug to your child. Give this drug right away after opening the blister pack. Do not store the removed drug for future use.
- Place under your child's tongue and let dissolve all the way before swallowing. Do not let your child chew, suck, or swallow the tablet.
- Do not let your child swallow for at least 1 minute after putting this drug in your child's mouth.
- Do not let your child eat or drink while the tablet is dissolving or for 5 minutes after the tablet dissolves.
- Wash your hands after use.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Skip the missed dose and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- If your child misses more than 1 day of taking this drug, talk with the doctor.

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

- Store in the original container 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 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 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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This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider’s examination and assessment of a patient’s specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient.

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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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