



## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Hydrogen Peroxide

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**

Eskata; GoodSense Hydrogen Peroxide [OTC]; Perox-A-Mint [OTC]; Peroxyl Spot Treatment [OTC]

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

- It is used to prevent skin infections.
- It is used to help get rid of phlegm or mucus or help with a sore mouth.
- It is used to prevent mouth infections.
- It is used to treat a type of skin growth called seborrheic keratoses.

### **What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?**

#### **For all uses of this drug:**

- If you have an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
- If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs,

foods, or other substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.

### **Skin:**

- If a large area needs to be treated.
- If you have an animal bite or a deep puncture wound.
- If you have a very bad burn or cut.

### **For seborrheic keratoses:**

- If you have broken skin or open wounds where the drug will be used.
- If there is an infection where this drug will be used.

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?**

**For all uses of this drug:**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Do not use longer than you have been told by the doctor.
- This drug may cause harm if swallowed. If this drug is swallowed, call a doctor or poison control center right away.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this drug while you are pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

### **For seborrheic keratoses:**

- Eye problems can happen if this drug gets in the eyes. This includes very bad eye pain or eye injury like loss of eyesight that may not go back to normal. Tell your doctor right away if this drug gets in your eyes. You will need to rinse your eyes with water for as long as your doctor tells you to.

### **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:

- 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 irritation where this drug is used.

### **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:

### **For all uses of this drug:**

- Irritation where this drug is used.

### **For seborrheic keratoses:**

- Stinging.
- Itching.
- Blisters.
- Swelling.
- Redness.
- Crusting.
- Scaling.
- Change in skin color.

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.

### **How is this drug best taken?**

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

### **For seborrheic keratoses:**

- This drug will be given to you by a doctor.

### **For other reasons:**

- Do not shake.
- Hold away from face when opening.
- Keep out of your eyes.

### **Skin:**

- Clean affected part before use. Make sure to dry well.
- Put on the affected part as you have been told.
- It may be covered with a bandage or dressing.
- Let skin dry first before covering with a bandage.

### **Oral:**

- Follow how to use as you have been told by the doctor or read the package insert.

- Do not swallow this drug.
- Swish it in your mouth as long as you were told and then spit out.
- Use this drug after meals and at bedtime or as you have been told by your doctor.

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

- Use a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not use 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

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

#### **For seborrheic keratoses:**

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

#### **For other reasons:**

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

#### **For all uses of this drug:**

- 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.
- Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your doctor.
- Talk with the doctor before starting any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
- 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.

## **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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