



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Insulin Glargine

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

Basaglar KwikPen; Lantus; Lantus SoloStar; Toujeo Max SoloStar; Toujeo SoloStar

Brand Names: Canada

Basaglar; Lantus; Toujeo SoloStar

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to lower blood sugar in patients with high blood sugar (diabetes).

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

- If your child has an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
- If your child is allergic to any drugs like this one or any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had, like rash; hives;

itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.

- If your child has any of these health problems: Acidic blood problem or low blood sugar.

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 for your child to take this drug with all of his/her 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?

All products:

- 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.
- Allergic reactions have happened with this drug. Rarely, some reactions can be very bad or life-threatening. Talk with the doctor.
- Low blood sugar may happen with this drug. Very low blood sugar can lead to seizures, passing out, long lasting brain damage, and sometimes death. Talk with the doctor.
- Low blood potassium may happen with this drug. If not

treated, this can lead to a heartbeat that is not normal, very bad breathing problems, and sometimes death. Talk with the doctor.

- 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.
- Some diabetes drugs like pioglitazone or rosiglitazone may cause heart failure or make it worse in people who already have it. Using insulin with these drugs may increase this risk. If you also take one of these drugs, talk with the doctor.
- Be sure your child has the right insulin product. Insulin products come in many containers like vials, cartridges, and pens. Be sure that you know how to measure and get your child's dose ready. If you have any questions, call the doctor or pharmacist.
- It may be harder to control your child's blood sugar during times of stress like when your child has a fever, an infection, an injury, or surgery. A change in level of physical activity or exercise and a change in diet may also affect your child's blood sugar. Talk with the doctor.
- Have your child wear disease medical alert ID (identification).
- If your child can drive, do not let your child drive if his/her blood sugar has been low. There is a greater chance of a

crash.

- Have your child's blood sugar checked as you have been told by your child's doctor.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Alcohol interacts with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol or take products that have alcohol in them.
- Do not share your child's insulin product with another person. This includes any pens, cartridge devices, needles, or syringes, even if the needle has been changed. Sharing may pass infections from one person to another. This includes infections you may not know your child has.

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.

U-300 prefilled pens :

- This brand of insulin has 3 times as much insulin as other brands. It comes in a prefilled pen that you must use to give your child's dose. Do not use a syringe to remove insulin from the pen. Doing so may lead to very bad side effects or life-threatening low blood sugar. Be sure to give your child the right dose of this drug. Talk with the doctor.

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 low potassium levels like muscle pain or weakness, muscle cramps, or a heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- Change in eyesight.
- Very bad dizziness or passing out.
- Very bad headache.
- Seizures.
- Change in skin to thick or thin where the shot was given.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Low mood (depression).

- Low blood sugar can happen. The chance of low blood sugar may be raised when this drug is used with other drugs for high blood sugar (diabetes). Signs may be dizziness, headache, feeling sleepy, feeling weak, shaking, a fast heartbeat, confusion, hunger, or sweating. Call the doctor right away if your child has any of these signs. Follow what you have been told to do if your child gets low blood sugar. This may include giving your child glucose tablets, liquid glucose, or some fruit juices.

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:

- Irritation where the shot is given.
- Back pain.
- Diarrhea.
- Headache.
- Weight gain.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Joint pain.
- Pain in arms or legs.

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:

- It is given as a shot into the fatty part of the skin on the top of the thigh, belly area, or upper arm.
- If you will be giving your child the shot, your child's doctor or nurse will teach you how to give the shot.
- Wash your hands before use.
- Do not give outdated insulin.
- Do not mix this insulin in the same syringe with other types of insulin.
- Do not mix with other liquids.
- Give this drug at the same time of day.
- Move site where you give the shot each time.
- Do not give into skin that is irritated, tender, bruised, red, scaly, hard, scarred, or has stretch marks.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- Do not use if solution changes color.

- Throw away needles in a needle/sharp disposal box. Do not reuse needles or other items. When the box is full, follow all local rules for getting rid of it. Talk with a doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.
- Have your child follow the diet and workout plan your child's doctor told you about.
- This drug must not be used in an insulin pump. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.

Vials:

- Do not draw into a syringe and store for future use.

Cartridges and prefilled pens:

- Remove all pen needle covers before injecting a dose (there may be 2). If you are not sure what type of pen needle you have or how to use it, talk with the doctor.
- Do not move this drug from the pen to a syringe.
- This product may make a clicking sound as you prepare the dose. Do not prepare the dose by counting the clicks. Doing so could lead to using the wrong dose.
- Take off the needle after each shot. Do not store this device with the needle on it.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Give a missed shot as soon as you think about it.

- If it is close to the time for your child's next shot, skip the missed shot and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not give 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- If you are not sure what to do if you miss giving your child a dose, call the doctor.

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

- Store unopened containers in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Do not use if it has been frozen.
- If an unopened container has been stored at room temperature, be sure you know how long you can leave this drug at room temperature before you need to throw it away. If you are not sure, talk with the doctor or pharmacist.
- After opening, be sure you know how long the product is good for and how to store it. Ask the doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- Protect from heat and light.
- 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.
- Keep a list of all your child's drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child's doctor.
- Talk with your child's doctor before giving your child 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 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.

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.

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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 to search our virtual library.

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