Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Cyclosporine (Ophthalmic

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ 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

Cequa; Restasis; Restasis MultiDose; Verkazia; Vevye

## Brand Names: Canada

Cequa; Restasis; Restasis MultiDose; TEVA-CycloSPORINE; Verkazia

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to help some patients make more tears and treat dry eyes.
- It may be used to treat a type of seasonal eye irritation called vernal keratoconjunctivitis (VKC).
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

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

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.

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?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Use care when driving or doing other tasks that call for clear eyesight.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

## 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.
- Change in eyesight.

## 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:

### Verkazia:

- Eye irritation.
- Eye pain.
- Cough.

### All other products:

- Burning.
- Eye pain, redness, or other irritation.

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.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1- 800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

### How is this drug best taken?

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

### All products:

- For the eye only.
- Take out contact lenses before using this drug. Lenses may be put back in 15 minutes after this drug is given. Do not put contacts back in if your eyes are irritated or infected.
- Do not touch the container tip to the eye, lid, or other skin. This could lead to bacteria in the drug, which may

cause severe eye problems or loss of eyesight.

- Wash hands before and after use.
- Tilt your head back and drop drug into the eye.
- After use, keep your eyes closed. Put pressure on the inside corner of the eye. Do this for 1 to 2 minutes. This keeps the drug in your eye.
- If you are using any other eye products in the same eye, be sure you know when to use each drug and how many minutes to space each drug from the other. If you are not sure, check with your pharmacist.

**Vevye:**

- To use this drug, tip the bottle upside down over the eye. Let a drop come out on its own. If a drop does not come out after a few seconds, squeeze slightly while holding over the eye. You may not feel the drop falling into your eye.

**Single-use vial:**

- Some vials need to be turned upside down a few times or shaken to mix the drug before use. Some vials come ready to use. Check with the pharmacist if you have questions.
- Each container is for one use only. Use right after opening. Throw away any part of the opened container

after the dose is given.

### Multi-dose container (Restasis):

- You will need to prepare the bottle before first use. Follow what you have been told by the doctor or read the package insert.
- Prime the bottle before first use by squeezing 2 drops onto a tissue. Do not touch the bottle tip to the tissue.
- Turn upside down a few times to mix the drug before use.
- Put the cap back on after you are done using your dose.

### What do I do if I miss a 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?
### All products:

- Store at room temperature. Do not freeze.
- 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.

**Vevye:**

- Do not refrigerate.

**Single-use vial:**

- If this drug comes in a foil pouch, store in the foil pouch until ready for use.

## 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.
- 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.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. 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 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. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms.

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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