Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Dihydroergotamine

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

Brekiya; Migranal [DSC]; Trudhesa

Brand Names: Canada

DHE; Migranal

Warning

- Poor blood flow to the hands, feet, or brain has happened when this drug was taken with certain other drugs like clarithromycin, erythromycin, indinavir, itraconazole, ketoconazole, nelfinavir, ritonavir, and troleandomycin. This may be very bad or even deadly. Do not take this drug if you are taking any of these drugs. There are many drugs that can do this. Check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat migraine headaches.
- Some products are used to treat cluster headaches.
- 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.
- If you have a latex allergy, talk with your doctor. Some products have latex.
- If you have any of these health problems: High blood pressure or some types of migraine headaches like hemiplegic or basilar migraine.
- If you have any of these health problems: Blood vessel problems, chest pain or pressure, heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease, poor blood flow, very bad infection, or recent blood vessel surgery.
- If you have ever had a heart attack.
- If you have taken almotriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan, or zolmitriptan in the last 24 hours.
- If you have taken ergotamine, methysergide, or any drug like them in the last 24 hours.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not take this drug if you are pregnant.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug and for 3 days after your last dose.

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?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- High blood pressure has happened with this drug. Have your blood pressure checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- You may need a heart function test before starting this drug. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Use care if you have risks for heart disease (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, overweight, high blood sugar or diabetes, smoking or other nicotine use, male older than 40 years of age, other family members with early heart disease, female after menopause). Talk with your doctor.
- If you drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit often, talk with your doctor.
- This drug is not meant for regular, daily use. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug is not meant to prevent or lower the number of migraine headaches you get.
- Do not use more than what your doctor told you to use. Do not use more often or longer than what you were told. Doing any of these things may raise the chance of very bad side effects.
- Taking more of this drug (a higher dose, more often) than your doctor told you to take may cause your headaches to become worse.

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.

- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Change in color of hands, feet, or other areas. Skin may turn pale, blue, gray, purple, or red.
- Numbness, pain, tingling, or cold feeling of the hands or feet.
- Any sores or wounds on the fingers or toes.
- Muscle pain or weakness.
- Cramping or pain in the legs or hips.
- Feeling of heaviness or tightness in the leg muscles.
- Burning or aching pain in the feet or toes.
- Swelling.
- Diarrhea or constipation.
- Severe stomach pain or bloody diarrhea.
- Belly pain after meals.
- Fever.
- Weight loss.
- Severe and sometimes deadly heart problems like heart attack and an abnormal heartbeat have happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have chest, throat, neck, or jaw tightness, pain, pressure, or heaviness; abnormal arm, back, neck, jaw, or stomach pain; shortness of breath; cold sweats; severe upset stomach or throwing up; or feeling dizzy or passing out.
- Very bad and sometimes deadly brain blood vessel problems like stroke have rarely happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on 1 side of the face, or change in eyesight.
- Rarely, heart valve problems have happened with this drug. Call your doctor

right away if you have a fast or abnormal heartbeat, shortness of breath, swelling in the arms or legs, or a big weight gain.

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:

Nose spray:

- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Change in taste.
- Nosebleed.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Burning.
- Dry nose.
- Feeling sleepy.

Nose powder:

- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Change in taste.
- Nosebleed.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Cough.
- Sneezing.

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.

Shot (if given into the fatty part of the skin):

- It is given as a shot into the fatty part of the skin.
- If you will be giving yourself the shot, your doctor or nurse will teach you how to give the shot.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- This drug is clear and colorless. Do not use if the solution changes color.
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Move the site where you give the shot with each shot.
- Do not give into skin within 2 inches of the last injection.
- Do not inject through clothes.
- Do not give into a mole, scar, birthmark, or stretchmarks. Do not give into skin that is red, irritated, burned, tender, bruised, hard, or damaged.
- If you are using the ampule, throw away any part not used within 1 hour after opening the ampule.
- If your headache comes back or if you only get some relief, you may repeat the dose up to 2 times if your doctor has told you to. If you need to repeat a dose, be sure to wait 1 hour after the last dose. Use a new ampule or autoinjector for each dose.
- 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.

Shot (if given in the muscle or vein):

- It is given as an injection into a muscle or vein.

Nose spray:

- For the nose only.
- Use this drug as early as you can after the attack has started.
- This product needs to be put together before using. Once the vial is opened and the nose spray is put together, use within 8 hours. If not used within 8 hours, throw the prepared spray away.
- Before first use, prime the pump by spraying 4 times. After priming, be sure you know how long the product is good for. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- Breathe in 1 spray in each nostril. Some products are to be used again as 1 more spray in each nostril 15 minutes later. Some products are to be used as 1 more spray in each nostril 1 hour later only if your headache comes back or if you only get some relief. Only do this if your doctor has told you to do so. Be sure you know how to use this drug. Talk with your doctor if you have questions.
- Do not tilt your head back or sniff through the nose while spraying this drug or right after use.

Nose powder:

- For the nose only.
- Be sure you know how to use this drug. Read the instructions that come with this drug. If you have any questions about how to use this drug, talk with the doctor or pharmacist.
- Use this drug as early as you can after the attack has started.
- Do **not** test or prime before using.
- Remove the round blue tab from the blue nozzle. Place the blue nozzle into one nostril. Squeeze the white air pump 3 times. Use fast, complete

squeezes. Do not squeeze slowly, partly, or with any hesitation. Let the white air pump go back to its original shape between squeezes.

- If your headache comes back or if you only get some relief, you may use 1 more dose if your doctor has told you to do so. If you use a second dose, be sure to wait 1 hour after the first dose. Use a new device if a second dose is needed.
- Do not use more than 2 doses within 24 hours.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- This drug is taken on an as needed basis. Do not take more often than told by the doctor.

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

Nose spray:

- Store at room temperature. Do not refrigerate or freeze.
- Protect from heat and light.

Nose powder:

- Store at room temperature.
- Do not remove this drug from the pouch until you are ready to take it.

Injection:

- Store at room temperature. Do not refrigerate or freeze.
- Protect from light.

Ampules:

- Protect from heat.

All products:

- 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.
- 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

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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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