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PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Glycopyrrolate (Systemic)

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

Cuvposa; Dartisla ODT [DSC]; Glycate; Glyrx-PF; Robinul [DSC]; Robinul-Forte [DSC]

## Brand Names: Canada

Cuvposa

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to help with symptoms of GI (gastrointestinal) ulcers.
- It is used to reduce drooling.
- In surgery, it is used to lower secretions such as saliva.
- 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 any of these health problems: Heart problems due to bleeding; glaucoma; GI (gastrointestinal) problems like bowel block, slow-moving GI tract, colitis, or bleeding ulcer; myasthenia gravis; or trouble passing urine.
- If you have ever had an enlarged colon.

- If you have a colostomy or ileostomy.
- If you are taking potassium tablets.
- If you are taking any drugs that slow the movement of the GI (gastrointestinal) tract or that can raise the risk of bowel block. There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If you take other drugs called anticholinergics, like ipratropium or oxybutynin. Ask your doctor if you are not sure if any of your drugs are anticholinergic.

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?**

### **All products:**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert or have clear eyesight until you see how this drug affects you.
- Talk with your doctor before you use alcohol, marijuana or other forms of cannabis, or prescription or OTC drugs that may slow your actions.
- If you have constipation, talk with your doctor. There may be ways to lower this side effect.
- Heat stroke has happened in people taking this drug. Be careful in hot weather and during physical activity.
- Drink lots of noncaffeine liquids after using this drug unless told to drink less

liquid by your doctor.

- Bright lights may bother you. Wear sunglasses.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of some side effects may be higher in children.
- 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.

### **Injection:**

- Some products have benzyl alcohol. If possible, avoid products with benzyl alcohol in newborns or infants. Serious side effects can happen in these children with some doses of benzyl alcohol, including if given with other drugs that have benzyl alcohol. Talk with the doctor to see if this product has benzyl alcohol in it.

## **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.
- Not sweating during activities or in warm temperatures.
- Trouble passing urine.
- Chest pain or pressure, a fast heartbeat, or an abnormal heartbeat.
- Fast breathing.

- Fever.
- Larger pupils.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- Feeling confused.
- Diarrhea or constipation.
- Bloating.
- Swelling of belly.
- Stomach pain.
- Not able to get or keep an erection.
- Muscle weakness.

## **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:

- Dry mouth.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Stuffy nose.
- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Blurred eyesight.
- Flushing.
- Change in taste.
- Headache.
- Feeling nervous and excitable.
- Trouble sleeping.

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 oral products:

- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

### Oral-disintegrating tablet:

- Take this drug on an empty stomach. Take at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after eating.
- Peel back the foil on the blister. Do not push the tablet out of the foil when opening. Use dry hands to take it from the foil. Place on your tongue and let it dissolve. Water is not needed. Do not chew, break, or crush the tablet.

### Oral solution:

- Take on an empty stomach at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after meals unless your doctor has told you otherwise.
- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.

### Injection:

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

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

### All oral products:

- Take 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 take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

### Injection:

- Call your doctor to find out what to do.

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

### All oral products:

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

### Injection:

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

### 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 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>.

## Last Reviewed Date

2025-10-06

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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](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

Glycopyrrolate (Systemic - Last updated on December 12, 2022

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