PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Pancrelipase

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

Creon; Pancreaze; Pancrelipase (Lip-Prot-Amyl); Pertzye; Viokace; Zenpep

Brand Names: Canada

Cotazym; Creon; Pancrease MT; Ultrase; Ultrase MT; Viokase

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to help break down food when the pancreas is not working the right way.

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

All products:

- 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.

Tablets:

- If you have lactose intolerance.

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.
- Have your blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- Follow the diet plan that your doctor told you about.
- If you have high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your blood sugar closely.
- Watch for gout attacks.

- This drug is made from pork (pig) pancreas tissue. There is a very small risk of getting a viral disease from this drug. No cases have happened. Talk with the doctor.
- Call your doctor if you still have signs of pancreas problems while taking this drug. Signs may include stomach pain, bloating, fatty stools, or weight loss. The dose of this drug may need to be changed.
- 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.
- Signs of gallstones like sudden pain in the upper right belly area, right shoulder area, or between the shoulder

blades; yellow skin or eyes; or fever with chills.

- Joint pain, stiffness, redness, or swelling.
- Mouth or tongue irritation.
- Swollen gland.
- This drug may raise the chance of a rare bowel problem called fibrosing colonopathy. This bowel problem can be very bad and may lead to the need for surgery. Call your doctor right away if you have any abnormal or very bad stomach pain, bloating, trouble passing stools, upset stomach, throwing up, or diarrhea.
- Tell your doctor if you have signs of high or low blood sugar like breath that smells like fruit, dizziness, fast breathing, fast heartbeat, feeling confused, feeling sleepy, feeling weak, flushing, headache, unusual thirst or hunger, passing urine more often, shaking, or sweating.

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:

- Dizziness or headache.
- Constipation, diarrhea, stomach pain, or upset stomach.

- Heartburn.
- Gas.
- Cough.
- Sore throat.
- Anal 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:

- Take with meals and snacks.
- Swallow whole. Do not chew, crush, or hold this product in your mouth. If you do, you may get mouth irritation or it may change the way this drug works. Talk with your

doctor.

- Take each dose with lots of fluids to make sure you swallow all of the contents.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

Tablets:

- You will need to take another drug along with this drug. This includes dexlansoprazole, esomeprazole, lansoprazole, omeprazole, pantoprazole, or rabeprazole. If you have questions, talk with your doctor.

Capsules:

- You may sprinkle contents of capsule on applesauce. Do not chew. Swallow right away and follow with water or juice.
- After mixing, take your dose right away. Do not store for future use.
- Some products may be sprinkled on foods other than applesauce. Be sure you know what foods you can mix this drug with.
- Some brands of this drug may be given down a certain type of feeding tube. Other brands must not be given

down a feeding tube. Check with your pharmacist to see if you can give this drug down a feeding tube.

Capsules (infants up to 12 months old):

- Give this drug every time you feed your child.
- Sprinkle the contents into the infant's mouth or over a small amount of applesauce. Some products may also be mixed with other foods found in baby food jars like bananas or pears. Be sure you know what foods you can mix this drug with.
- Do not mix with baby formula or breast milk.
- Give the mixture right away. Do not store for use at a later time.
- Have your child drink baby formula or breast milk right after giving.
- Check inside your child's mouth after feeding to make sure your child swallowed the drug.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

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

- Store at room temperature with the lid tightly closed.
- Store in the original container. If the bottle has a desiccant packet to keep the drug dry, keep the desiccant in the bottle. Do not eat or swallow the desiccant.
- Protect from heat.
- If stored at a temperature higher than room temperature, talk with the doctor to see if this drug may still be used.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- 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.
- This drug comes with an extra patient fact sheet called a Medication Guide. Read it with care. Read it again each time this drug is refilled. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with the doctor, 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

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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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