Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Tiotropium

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

Spiriva HandiHaler; Spiriva Respimat

Brand Names: Canada

APO-Tiotropium; LUPIN-Tiotropium; Spiriva; Spiriva Respimat

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).
- Some products may be used to treat asthma.
- Do not use this drug to treat intense flare-ups of shortness of breath. Use a rescue inhaler (quick relief inhaler). If you have questions, 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 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?

For all uses of this drug:

- 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.
- To help control and improve your breathing problem, it is important that you do not run out of this drug. Be sure to get a refill before you run out.
- Call your doctor right away if your breathing problems get worse, if your rescue inhaler (quick relief inhaler) does not work as well, or if you need to use your rescue inhaler more often.
- Do not get this drug in your eyes. If you get it in your eyes, it may cause large pupils and blurred eyesight.
- 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.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- 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.

For asthma:

- It may take several weeks to see the full effects.

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 a urinary tract infection (UTI) like blood in the urine, burning or pain when passing urine, feeling the need to pass urine often or right away, fever, lower stomach pain, or pelvic pain.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- Eye redness.
- Seeing halos or bright colors around lights.
- Trouble passing urine, pain when passing urine, passing urine in a weak stream or drips, or passing urine more often.
- Chest pain.
- A fast heartbeat.
- Swelling.
- This drug can cause very bad breathing problems right after you take a dose. Sometimes, this may be life-threatening. If you have trouble breathing, breathing that is worse, wheezing, or coughing after using this drug, use a rescue inhaler (quick relief inhaler) and get medical help right away.

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.
- Constipation.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Stomach pain.
- Headache.

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.

Capsules for breathing in:

- **Do not swallow capsule. The contents of the capsule will be breathed into the lungs.**
- Only use the device that comes with this drug. Do not use any other devices.
- Do not take this drug out of the blister pack until you are ready to use it. Do not store the removed drug for future use.

- Do not open the capsules.

Inhaler (aerosol):

- For breathing into the lungs.
- Prepare the inhaler before first use. Spray towards the ground until mist is seen. Once the mist is seen, spray 3 more times. If it has been more than 3 days since it has been used, spray once at the ground. If not used in more than 21 days, you will need to prepare the inhaler again. Spray until mist is seen then spray 3 more times.
- Follow how to clean carefully.
- After all sprays have been used, the inhaler will lock.

All products:

- Keep using this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
- Keep out of your eyes.
- If you are using more than 1 inhaled drug, ask the doctor which drug to use first.
- Do not use a spacer with the inhaler.
- Use new inhaler with each refill.
- Put the cap back on after you are done using your dose.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If you do not think about the missed dose until the next day, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take more than 1 dose of this drug in 24 hours.

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

All products:

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

Capsules for breathing in:

- Store this drug in the blister pack that it comes in.

Inhaler (aerosol):

- After putting together, throw away the inhaler 3 months after first use or when the inhaler locks.

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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