PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Bupivacaine

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

BUPivacaine Fisiopharma; BUPivacaine Spinal; Marcaine; Marcaine Preservative Free; Marcaine Spinal; Posimir [DSC]; Sensorcaine; Sensorcaine-MPF; Xaracoll [DSC]

Brand Names: Canada

Marcaine; Marcaine Spinal [DSC]; Sensorcaine

Warning
If your child is pregnant:

- Seizures, sudden loss of heart function, and death have been reported when this drug was used as an epidural during childbirth. Most of the time, this happened with a certain strength of this drug that is not meant for use during labor. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to numb an area before a procedure.

Implant and injection (in the shoulder):

- This drug is not approved for this use in children. However, the doctor may decide the benefits of taking this drug outweigh the risks. If your child has been given this drug, ask the doctor for information about the benefits and risks. Talk with your child's doctor if you have questions about giving this drug to your child.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor

about the allergy and what signs your child had.

- If your child has any of these health problems: Bleeding, a heartbeat that is not normal, an infection in the blood or where this drug will be given, or low blood pressure.
- If your child will be using another drug like this one. If you are not sure, ask the doctor or pharmacist.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe to give this drug with all of your child's other drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

For all uses of this drug:

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness until the effects of this drug wear off and your

child feels fully awake. These are things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, toy cars, or motorized vehicles.

- A severe blood problem called methemoglobinemia has happened with drugs like this one. The risk may be raised in people who have glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency, heart problems, or lung problems. The risk may also be raised while taking certain other drugs and in infants younger than 6 months of age. Tell your child's doctor if your child has ever had methemoglobinemia.
- Not all products are meant for use in children. Talk with the doctor.

If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:

- Talk with the doctor if your child is pregnant, becomes pregnant, or is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to your child and the baby.

Mouth:

- Do not let your child eat while their mouth feels numb. Biting of the tongue could happen.

Spinal:

- This drug may cause short-term loss of feeling and motor activity in the lower half of your child's body. Do not let your child try to get out of bed or do other tasks or actions until feeling and motor activity have returned to normal.

Injection (other than spinal):

- This drug may cause short-term loss of feeling and motor activity where it is given.

What are some side effects that I need to call my child's 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 child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

For all uses of this drug:

- 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 too much acid in the blood (acidosis) like confusion; fast breathing; fast heartbeat; a heartbeat that does not feel normal; very bad stomach pain, upset stomach, or throwing up; feeling very sleepy; shortness of breath; or feeling very tired or weak.
- Signs of methemoglobinemia like a blue or gray color of the lips, nails, or skin; a heartbeat that does not feel normal; seizures; severe dizziness or passing out; severe headache; feeling very sleepy; feeling tired or weak; or shortness of breath. This effect is rare but may be deadly if it happens.
- Fast, slow, or abnormal heartbeat.
- Chest pain or pressure.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- Feeling lightheaded, sleepy, confused, or having blurred eyesight.
- Change in balance.
- Restlessness.
- Anxiety.
- Change in speech.
- Shakiness.
- Twitching.
- Ringing in ears.

- Trouble breathing, slow breathing, or shallow breathing.
- Seizures.
- Numbness or tingling in the mouth.
- Metallic taste.
- Severe upset stomach or throwing up.
- Feeling hot or cold.
- Feeling nervous and excitable.
- Sneezing.
- Sweating a lot.

Spinal:

- Trouble passing urine.
- Loss of bladder or bowel control.
- Not able to get or keep an erection.
- Long-lasting burning, numbness, tingling, or paralysis in the lower half of the body.
- Backache.
- Fever or chills.
- Stiff neck.
- If bright lights bother your child’s eyes.

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 child's doctor or get medical help if your child has any side effects that bother your child or do not go away.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- It is given as a shot.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- This drug will be given on an as needed basis in a health care setting.

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

- This drug will be given in a hospital or doctor's office. You will not store it at home.

General drug facts

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- 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.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child's 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.

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This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is

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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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