PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Caffeine

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

Cafcit; FT Stay Awake [OTC]; Keep Alert [OTC]; Stay Awake Maximum Strength [OTC] [DSC]; Stay Awake [OTC]; Vivarin [OTC]

Brand Names: Canada

Peyona

What is this drug used for?

Liquid and injection:

- It is used to treat premature infants who stop breathing for short periods of time.

Tablets and capsules:

- It is used to make your child more alert.

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

All products:

- 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.

Liquid and injection:

- If your child is taking theophylline.

Tablets and capsules:

- If the patient is a child younger than 12 years of age. Do not give this drug to a child younger than 12 years of age.

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?

Liquid and injection:

- 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's blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- A very bad stomach or bowel problem called necrotizing enterocolitis has happened with this drug. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Talk with the doctor.

Tablets and capsules:

- 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.
- Do not have your child use longer than you have been told by your child's doctor.
- Limit your child's use of caffeine (for example, tea, coffee, cola) and

chocolate. Use with this drug may cause nervousness, shakiness, and a fast heartbeat.

- This drug is not to be used instead of sleeping. 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.

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:

All products:

- 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.
- A fast heartbeat.

Liquid and injection:

- Black, tarry, or bloody stools.
- Throwing up.
- Swelling of belly.
- Throwing up blood or throw up that looks like coffee grounds.
- Seizures.
- Feeling sluggish.
- Restlessness.

- Shakiness.
- Passing urine more often.

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 any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

Liquid and injection:

- Problems with feeding.

Tablets and capsules:

- Feeling nervous and excitable.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Feeling irritable.

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.

Oral solution:

- Give this drug at the same time of day.
- 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.

- Throw away any part of opened vial not used after use.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- Do not use if solution changes color.
- Those who have feeding tubes may use this drug. Use as you have been told. Flush the feeding tube after this drug is given.

Injection:

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.

Tablets and capsules:

- Give this drug with or without food.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

Oral solution:

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your child's next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not give 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

Injection:

- This drug will be given in a health care setting.

Tablets and capsules:

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

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:

- This drug will be given in a healthcare setting. You will not store it at home.

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 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.
- 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.

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,

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Last Reviewed Date

2022-07-27

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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.

Caffeine - Last updated on December 12, 2022
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