PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Chikungunya Vaccine (Live

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

Ixchiq [DSC]

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to prevent disease caused by chikungunya virus.

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 a weak immune system or a disease that may cause a weak immune system like HIV.
- If your child has had chemo treatments before and still has blood problems from those treatments.

- If your child is taking any drugs that suppress the immune system. There are many drugs that can do this. Ask the doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

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?

- 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.
- Vaccines may not fully protect all people who get them. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Other measures are needed along with this drug to help avoid mosquito bites. This includes wearing the correct clothes, insect repellents, and mosquito nets. Talk with the doctor if you have questions about how to avoid

mosquito bites.

- Low white blood cell counts have happened. Most of the time, this happened within the first week after the vaccine and went back to normal within 1 month. If you have questions, 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.
- If your child got this vaccine during pregnancy (especially within 14 days before giving birth), tell the baby's doctor. Passing of the vaccine virus to the baby may happen at birth. Chikungunya disease can be severe and sometimes deadly in newborns.

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:

- 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.

- Fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Stiff neck.
- If bright lights bother your child's eyes.
- Severe dizziness or passing out can happen after or sometimes before getting a vaccine. Tell your child's doctor right away if your child feels dizzy.
- It is common to have effects with this vaccine that are like the symptoms of chikungunya disease. However, sometimes these could be severe and may last for weeks or months. Some patients have had to go to the hospital. A death has also been reported. Call the doctor right away if symptoms like fever, headache, feeling tired or weak, muscle pain, or joint pain are severe. If they bother your child, cause problems with daily living, or do not go away, talk with the doctor.

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:

- Tenderness or other reaction where the injection was given.
- Fever or chills.
- Upset stomach.
- Headache.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Muscle or joint pain.

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 into a muscle.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Call your child's doctor to find out what to do.

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

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

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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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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