MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Grass Pollen Allergen Extract (5 Grass Extract

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

Oralair; Oralair Adult Starter Pack; Oralair Childrens Starter Pack

Brand Names: Canada

Oralair

Warning

- Allergic reactions have happened with this drug. Rarely, some reactions can be very bad or life-threatening. Talk with the doctor.
- The first dose will be given in a doctor's office.
- The doctor will give you another drug (epinephrine) to give in case of an allergic reaction. Be sure you know how and when to give it. Certain drugs may make epinephrine not work as well or raise the chance of side effects. This includes some drugs used to treat depression, heart problems, or high blood pressure. There are many drugs that interact with epinephrine. Talk with the doctor or pharmacist to make sure it is safe to give epinephrine with all of your child's drugs.
- Do not give this drug to your child if they have severe asthma or asthma that is not controlled.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat a grass pollen allergy.

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 asthma.
- If your child has ever had a severe allergic reaction.
- If your child has ever had eosinophilic esophagitis.
- If your child has sores or other irritation in the mouth or throat.
- If your child has a mouth or throat infection.
- If your child is having or has had recent dental work or surgery in the mouth.

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.
- This drug will not help allergy signs get better if the signs are already present. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug is most useful if started before contact with the allergen. Give at

least 4 months before.

- If your child has asthma and it gets harder to control or if your child has trouble breathing, call the doctor right away.

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:

- 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.
- Trouble swallowing or speaking.
- Pain with swallowing.
- Heartburn.
- Chest pain or pressure, a fast heartbeat, or passing out.
- Dizziness.
- Flushing.
- Shortness of breath.
- Cough that does not go away.
- Severe diarrhea.
- Severe upset stomach or throwing up.

- Stomach cramps.
- Severe stomach pain.

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:

- Itching in the ear, mouth, or tongue.
- Cough.
- Throat pain.
- Throat irritation.

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.

- Do not take this drug out of the blister pack until you are ready to give this drug to your child. Give this drug right away after opening the blister pack. Do not store the removed drug for future use.
- Place under your child's tongue and let dissolve all the way before swallowing. Do not let your child chew, suck, or swallow the tablet.
- Do not let your child eat or drink while the tablet is dissolving or for 5 minutes after the tablet dissolves.
- Wash your hands after use.

What do I do if my child misses a 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.
- If your child misses more than 1 day of taking this drug, talk with the doctor.

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

- Store in the original container at room temperature.
- 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 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.

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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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