PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Iohexol

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

Omnipaque

Brand Names: Canada

Omnipaque; Omnipaque 240; Omnipaque 300

Warning

- Some products must not be given into the spine. Very bad and sometimes deadly health problems have happened when these products were given into the spine. This includes coma, heart attack, kidney failure, paralysis, seizures, high body temperature, a muscle problem called rhabdomyolysis, or brain problems like bleeding or swelling. Talk with the doctor.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used before a CT scan or other test.

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.
- If your child is dehydrated, has been eating poorly, or has used a laxative or water pill before this drug.
- If your child has had a skin reaction to this drug or another drug like it in the past.
- If your child is taking metformin.

Injection (if given into the spine):

- If your child has an infection.
- If your child is taking any drugs that may raise the chance of seizures, or has taken one in the last 48 hours. There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your child's doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Injection (if given in an artery or vein):

- If your child is not able to pass urine.

If used before an x-ray of the uterus and fallopian tubes:

- If your child is having a menstrual period, has a genital infection, or has or may have a growth in the reproductive tract.
- If your child has had a type of tissue taken out (curettage) or a type of cervix biopsy (conization) within the past 30 days.
- If your child has had a pregnancy ended within the past 6 months.
- If your child is pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not give this drug to your child during pregnancy.

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?

All products:

- 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.
- Your child's blood work may need to be checked. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your child's health care providers and lab workers that your child takes this drug.
- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of side effects may be higher in some children.

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.

Injection (if given in an artery or vein):

- Low thyroid function has happened in children younger than 3 years of age after the use of drugs like this one. Low thyroid function in early life can affect child development. Your child may need to have thyroid function checked for some time after the injection. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Rarely, life-threatening or deadly heart problems have happened with this drug. This includes low blood pressure and heart attack. Talk with the

doctor.

- Health problems like blood clots have happened with this drug when used with some procedures. Sometimes, blood clots may cause heart attack and stroke, which may be deadly. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.

Injection (if given into the spine):

- This drug may raise the chance of seizures in some people, including people who have had seizures in the past. Talk to the doctor to see if your child has a greater chance of seizures while taking this drug.

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. Rarely, some allergic reactions have been deadly.
- Signs of kidney problems like unable to pass urine, change in how much urine is passed, blood in the urine, or a big weight gain.
- Signs of thyroid problems like change in weight; feeling nervous, excitable, restless, or weak; hair thinning; depression; eye or neck swelling; not able to focus; trouble with heat or cold; menstrual changes; shakiness; or sweating.

Injection:

- Chest pain or pressure, a fast heartbeat, or an abnormal heartbeat.
- Weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on one side of the face, or blurred eyesight.
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Swelling, warmth, numbness, change of color, or pain in a leg or arm.
- Seizures.
- Change in eyesight.
- This drug may cause tissue damage if the drug leaks from the vein. Tell your child's nurse if your child has any redness, burning, pain, swelling, blisters, skin sores, or leaking of fluid where the drug is going into your child's body.
- Severe skin reactions may happen from 1 hour to several weeks after getting this drug. These include Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), and other serious reactions. Sometimes, body organs may also be affected. These reactions can be deadly. Get medical help right away if your child has signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin; red or irritated eyes; sores in the mouth, throat, nose, eyes, genitals, or any areas of skin; fever; chills; body aches; shortness of breath; or swollen glands.

Injection (if given into the spine):

- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.

Liquid:

- Swelling.

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:

All products:

- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Headache.

Injection (if given in an artery or vein):

- Dizziness.
- Feeling of warmth.
- Change in taste.

Injection (if given into the spine):

- Dizziness.
- Back pain.
- Neck pain.
- Stiff neck.

Liquid:

- Stomach pain or diarrhea.
- Gas.

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.

All products:

- You will need to be sure that your child is not dehydrated before getting this drug. Check with the doctor to see if you need to have your child drink extra fluids before getting this drug.
- Have your child drink lots of noncaffeine liquids after the test is over unless told to drink less liquid by the doctor.

Injection:

- Your child's doctor will give this drug.
- Other drugs may be given before this drug to help avoid side effects.

Liquid:

- It may be given by mouth or given rectally.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

Liquid:

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

Injection:

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

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

Liquid:

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

Injection:

- The injection will be given to your child in a healthcare setting. 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 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

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Last Reviewed Date

2024-10-04

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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.

Iohexol - Last updated on December 12, 2022
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