

# Lindane

This information from Lexicomp® 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.

## Warning

- Seizures and deaths have happened after using this drug many times or for a long time. Rarely, seizures and deaths have happened after one use of this drug. Follow how to use very closely. Use this drug only when your child is not helped by some other drug or if your child cannot use some other drug.
- Do not use this drug on premature infants, if your child has certain skin problems like psoriasis or atopic dermatitis, or if your child has ever had seizures. Use with care in children, in older people, and in people who weigh less than 110 pounds (50 kilograms). The chance of seizures may be raised. Talk with the doctor.
- Your child may have itching after using this drug. This does not always mean the drug did not work. Talk to the doctor about what to do.

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat lice.

## **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 scabies or if your child has used lindane in the past.

### **If your child is pregnant:**

- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. You will need to talk with your child's doctor about if this drug is right for your child.

### **If your child is breast-feeding a baby:**

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby for at least 24 hours after getting this drug.

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.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- Talk with your child's doctor before you use other drugs or products on your child's skin. This includes soaps.

- Do not give this drug by mouth. If this drug is put in the mouth or swallowed, call a doctor or poison control center right away.
- Avoid touching this drug if you are pregnant. If you must put this drug on someone else and you are pregnant, talk with the doctor. You will need to wear special gloves to avoid touching this drug.

### **If your child is or may be sexually active:**

- If your child has a sexual partner and lice are in the pubic area, the sex partner may need to get checked and treated for lice too.

### **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.
- Dizziness.
- Seizures.

### **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:

- Burning, itching, dryness, or other irritation where this drug was used.

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 give by mouth. Use on your child's scalp and hair only. Keep out of your child's mouth, nose, and eyes (may burn).
- If you get this drug in your child's eyes, wash right away with water. If your child has eye irritation that lasts or a change in eyesight, call the doctor.
- Wear special gloves while putting this drug on your child.
- Shake well before use.
- Do not wet hair with water before using lindane shampoo.
- Be sure your child's hair is clean and dry before putting on this drug. Use regular shampoo without conditioner. Dry your child's hair. Wait at least 1 hour after your child bathes or showers before putting on this drug.
- Lightly coat hair.
- Work into hair and scalp gently.
- Be sure to also put shampoo on the short hairs at the back of the neck.
- Leave on hair for 4 minutes.
- Do not cover the hair with things like a shower cap or towel.
- After 4 minutes, put a little bit of warm water on hair and lather. Do NOT use hot water.
- Rinse fully.
- Take off gloves and wash your hands.
- Use special nit comb or tweezers to get rid of dead nits (lice eggs) from hair.

- Do not put on cuts, scrapes, or damaged skin unless the doctor tells you to.
- Do not use oil treatments, oil-based hair dressings, or conditioners right before or after putting this drug on.
- Wash all bedding, towels, and recently worn clothes in hot water or have them dry cleaned.

## **What do I do if my child misses a dose?**

- Most of the time, only one dose of this drug is needed. If you forget to put on the dose, put it on as soon as you think about it.

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

- Store at room temperature. Throw away any part not used after use.
- 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, 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 warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms>.

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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](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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