PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Liraglutide

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

Saxenda; Victoza

Brand Names: Canada

Saxenda; Victoza

Warning

- This drug has been shown to cause thyroid cancer in some animals. It is not known if this happens in humans. If thyroid cancer happens, it may be deadly if not found and treated early. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has a neck mass, trouble breathing, trouble swallowing, or has hoarseness that will not go away.
- Do not use this drug if your child has a health problem called Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2), or if your child or a family member has had a type of thyroid cancer called medullary thyroid cancer (MTC). Talk to your child's doctor if you are not sure.
- Have your child's blood work checked and thyroid ultrasounds done as you have been told by your child's doctor.

What is this drug used for?

Victoza:

- It is used to help control blood sugar in people with type 2 diabetes.
- It is used to lower the chance of heart attack, stroke, and death in people with type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

Saxenda:

- It is used to help with weight loss in certain people.

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's stomach empties slowly or your child has trouble digesting food.
- If your child is using another drug that has the same drug in it.
- If your child is using another drug like this one. If you are not sure, ask your child's doctor or pharmacist.

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?

For all uses of 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.
- Have your child follow the diet and exercise plan your child's doctor told you about.
- If your child cannot drink liquids by mouth or has upset stomach, throwing up, or diarrhea that does not go away; your child needs to avoid getting dehydrated. Contact your child's doctor to find out what to do. Dehydration may lead to new or worse kidney problems.
- This drug may prevent other drugs taken by mouth from getting into the body. If your child takes other drugs by mouth, you may need to give them at some other time than this drug. Talk with the doctor.
- Do not share pen or cartridge devices with another person even if the needle has been changed. Sharing these devices may pass infections from one person to another. This includes infections you may not know your child has.
- If your child will be having any surgery or procedure, talk with your child's doctor. This drug may raise the risk of food getting into the lungs during surgery or other procedures that use anesthesia or deep sedation. Your child may need to stop this drug before these types of surgery or procedures.

If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy. If your child is pregnant or gets pregnant while taking this drug, call the doctor right away.
- Tell the doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk

about any risks to the baby.

If using for high blood sugar:

- Have your child wear disease medical alert ID (identification).
- If your child can drive, do not let your child drive if blood sugar has been low. There is a greater chance of a crash.
- Check your child's blood sugar as you have been told by the doctor.
- It may be harder to control blood sugar during times of stress such as fever, infection, injury, or surgery. A change in physical activity, exercise, diet, or weight may also affect your child's blood sugar.

If using for weight loss:

- If your child has high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your child's blood sugar closely.
- Weight loss during pregnancy may harm an unborn baby. If your child gets pregnant while taking this drug or wants to get pregnant, call the doctor right away.

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. Rarely, some allergic reactions have been life-threatening.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- Fast or abnormal heartbeat.

- Depression or other mood changes.
- Slurred speech.
- Blurred eyesight.
- Low blood sugar can happen. The chance may be raised when this drug is used with other drugs for diabetes. Signs may be dizziness, headache, feeling sleepy or weak, shaking, fast heartbeat, confusion, hunger, or sweating. Call the doctor right away if your child has any of these signs. Follow what you have been told to do for low blood sugar. This may include giving your child glucose tablets, liquid glucose, or some fruit juices.
- Severe and sometimes deadly pancreas problems (pancreatitis) have happened with this drug. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has severe stomach pain, severe back pain, or severe upset stomach or throwing up.
- Kidney problems have happened. Sometimes, these may need to be treated in the hospital or with dialysis. Tell the doctor right away if your child has signs of kidney problems like being unable to pass urine, change in how much urine is passed, blood in the urine, or a big weight gain.
- Gallbladder problems have happened while taking this drug. Sometimes, people had to be treated in the hospital. In some cases, the gallbladder had to be removed. Call the doctor right away if your child has signs like pain in the upper right belly area, right shoulder area, or between the shoulder blades; yellow skin or eyes; fever with chills; bloating; or very upset stomach or throwing up.

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:

For all uses of this drug:

- Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, and decreased appetite are common with this drug. If these happen, talk with the doctor about ways to lower these side effects. Call the doctor right away if any of these effects bother your child, do not get better, or are severe.
- Irritation where the shot is given.
- Headache.

If using for high blood sugar:

- Nose or throat irritation.
- Back pain.

If using for weight loss:

- Stomach pain.
- Feeling tired or weak.

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.

For all uses of this drug:

- It is given as a shot into the fatty part of the skin on the top of the thigh, belly area, or upper arm.
- Do not give into a muscle or vein.
- If you will be giving your child the shot, your child's doctor or nurse will

teach you how to give the shot.

- Move the site where you give the shot with each shot.
- Give this drug with or without food.
- Have your child drink lots of noncaffeine liquids unless told to drink less liquid by your child's doctor.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- Do not use if solution changes color.
- Wash hands before and after use.
- Prepare pen before first use as you have been told. You will also need to do this if you drop the pen.
- This product may make a clicking sound as you prepare the dose. Do not prepare the dose by counting the clicks. Doing so could lead to using the wrong dose.
- Remove all pen needle covers before injecting a dose (there may be 2). If you are not sure what type of pen needle you have or how to use it, talk with the doctor.
- Put the cap back on after your child is done using a dose.
- Keep giving this drug to your child as you have been told by your child's doctor or other health care provider, even if your child feels well.
- Attach new needle before each dose.
- Throw away needles in a needle/sharp disposal box. Do not reuse needles or other items. When the box is full, follow all local rules for getting rid of it. Talk with a doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

If using for high blood sugar:

- If your child is also using insulin, you may inject this drug and the insulin in the same area of the body but not right next to each other.
- Do not mix this drug in the same syringe with insulin.

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 3 days of this drug, call your child's doctor to find out what to do.

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

All products:

- Store unopened pens in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Do not use if it has been frozen.
- Store opened pens at room temperature or in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- After opening, throw away any part not used after 30 days.
- Take off the needle after each shot and safely put it in a needle/sharp disposal box. Do not store this device with the needle on it.
- Protect from heat and light.
- Keep the cap on the pen when not in 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.

Victoza:

- Throw away drug if stored at a temperature above 86°F (30°C).

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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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 to search our virtual library.

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