

## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Lutetium Lu 177 Dotatate

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**

Lutathera

### **Brand Names: Canada**

Lutathera

### **What is this drug used for?**

- It is used to treat a certain type of cancer called neuroendocrine tumor from the gastrointestinal tract or the pancreas (GEP-NETs).

### **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 is taking or will be taking another drug like

this one.

- If your child has taken long-acting octreotide or a drug like it within the past 4 weeks.
- If your child has taken short-acting octreotide or a drug like it within the past 24 hours.
- If your child must take a steroid drug like prednisone for other health problems.

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

- Do not let your child breast-feed a baby for at least 10 weeks after the last dose of 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.
- This drug is radioactive. Your child will need to follow what the doctor says to do to lessen being exposed to this drug.
- If your child has ever had radiation, talk with the doctor.
- Have your child pass urine often before getting this drug, the day of treatment, and the day after getting this drug. Your child needs to empty the bladder often. Drinking lots of liquids will help.
- Have your child's blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- If your child has constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, or decreased appetite, talk with your child's doctor. There may be ways to lower these side effects.
- Your child may have more chance of getting infections. Have your child wash hands often. Avoid crowds and people with infections, colds, or flu.
- Your child may bleed more easily. Make sure your child is careful and avoids injury. Be sure your child has a soft toothbrush.

- Rarely, a bone marrow problem called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) has happened in patients treated with this drug. A type of leukemia has also rarely happened. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- If your child has high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your child's blood sugar closely.
- Allergic reactions have happened with this drug. Your child will be watched for at least 2 hours after treatment. Tell the doctor if your child has any unusual effects during treatment or after getting this drug.
- Use this drug with care in children. The risks from use of radiation may be higher in children. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may affect fertility. Fertility problems may lead to not being able to get pregnant or father a child. If your child plans to get pregnant or father a child, talk with the doctor before your child takes this drug.
- If your child is of childbearing age, a pregnancy test will need to be done before starting this drug to make sure your child is not pregnant.

**If your child is pregnant or may be pregnant:**

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy.
- If your child may become pregnant, have your child use

birth control while taking this drug and for 7 months after the last dose. If your child becomes pregnant, call the doctor right away.

- If your child's sex partner may become pregnant, they must use birth control while taking this drug and for 4 months after the last dose. If your child's partner becomes 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.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.

- Signs of bleeding like throwing up or coughing up blood; vomit that looks like coffee grounds; blood in the urine; black, red, or tarry stools; bleeding from the gums; abnormal vaginal bleeding; bruises without a cause or that get bigger; or bleeding you cannot stop.
- 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 liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Signs of high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Signs of electrolyte problems like mood changes; confusion; muscle pain, cramps, or spasms; weakness; shakiness; change in balance; an abnormal heartbeat; seizures; loss of appetite; or severe upset stomach or throwing up.
- Signs of high or low blood sugar like breath that smells like fruit, dizziness, fast breathing, fast heartbeat, feeling confused, feeling sleepy, feeling weak, flushing, headache, unusual thirst or hunger, passing urine more often, shaking, or sweating.

- Flushing.
- Fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Rarely, a severe reaction has happened in patients who take this drug. This usually happened during or within 24 hours after the first dose of this drug. Tell the doctor right away if your child has severe flushing, diarrhea, trouble breathing, or signs of low blood pressure like dizziness or passing out.

### **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:

- Constipation, diarrhea, stomach pain, upset stomach, throwing up, or decreased appetite.
- Hair loss.
- Feeling dizzy, tired, or weak.
- Back, neck, arm, or leg pain.
- Muscle pain.
- Headache.

- Change in taste.
- Anxiety.

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 an infusion into a vein over a period of time.
- Other drugs will be given with this drug to help avoid side effects.

### **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.

## 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>.

### **Last Reviewed Date**

2025-02-10

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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.

Lutetium Lu 177 Dotatate - Last updated on May 13, 2024

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## Last Updated

May 13, 2024

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