PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Virus Vaccine

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

M-M-R II; Priorix

## Brand Names: Canada

M-M-R II; Priorix

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to prevent measles, mumps, and rubella.

## 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 any of these health problems: A weak immune system or a family member with a weak immune system, TB (tuberculosis) that is not being treated, or an illness with a fever.
- If a family member has had immune system problems.
- If your child is taking any drugs to suppress the immune system. This may be certain doses of steroids like prednisone. This does not apply to children

taking steroids for certain health problems like Addison's disease. There are many drugs that can suppress the immune system. Ask your child's doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

- If your child has had any of these within the past 3 months: Blood transfusion, plasma transfusion, or immune globulin.

### If your child is pregnant:

- If your child is pregnant or plans to get pregnant within the next month. Do not give this drug to your child during pregnancy or if your child is planning to get pregnant within the next month.

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.
- Vaccines may not fully protect all people who get them. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- If your child has a TB skin test soon after getting this vaccine, tell the doctor that your child has gotten the vaccine.
- If your child is allergic to eggs, talk with the doctor.
- Talk with the doctor if your child has recently had a vaccine or will be getting another vaccine after this one. Some vaccines may not work when given some time before or after other vaccines.

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

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy.
- Have your child use birth control to prevent pregnancy for 1 month after taking this drug. If your child gets pregnant within 1 month after getting this drug, call the doctor right away.

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

- Tell the doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about any risks to 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.
- Signs of a pancreas problem (pancreatitis) like very bad stomach pain, very bad back pain, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.
- Feeling confused.
- Change in the way your child acts.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Change in balance.
- Trouble walking.
- Seizures.
- Swelling of the testicles.

- Swollen gland.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath.
- Change in hearing.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- Low platelet counts have rarely happened with this drug. This may lead to a higher chance of bleeding. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Severe dizziness or passing out can happen after or sometimes before getting a vaccine. Tell your child's doctor right away if your child feels dizzy.

## 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:

- Pain, redness, swelling, or other reaction where the injection was given.
- Mild fever.
- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Headache.
- Feeling irritable.
- Muscle or joint pain.
- Diarrhea, upset stomach, or throwing up.
- Decreased appetite.

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 a shot into the fatty part of the skin or a muscle.
- Your child may need to have 2 doses of this vaccine. If your child needs 2 doses, be sure you know when to take your child back to get the second dose.

## 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 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.

## Additional Information

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) are made by the staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Each VIS gives information to properly inform the adult receiving the vaccine or, in the case of a minor, the child's parent or legal representative about the risks and benefits of each vaccine. Before a doctor vaccinates a child or an adult, the provider is required by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act to give a copy of the VIS. You can also get foreign language versions.

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/mmr.html

## Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

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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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