

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Metoprolol

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

Kaspargo Sprinkle; Lopressor; Toprol XL

Brand Names: Canada

AA-Metoprolol SR; AG-Metoprolol-L; APO-Metoprolol; APO-Metoprolol Type L; JAMP-Metoprolol-L; Metoprolol-L; PMS-Metoprolol-L; PRO-Metoprolol; PRO-Metoprolol-L; RIVA-Metoprolol-L; TEVA-Metoprolol

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat high blood pressure.
- It may be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

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: Certain types of abnormal heartbeats called heart block or sick-sinus syndrome, heart failure (weak heart), low blood pressure, poor blood flow to the arms or legs, shock caused by heart problems, or a slow heartbeat.
- If your child has any of these health problems: Asthma or other breathing problems like COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

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.
- Have your child's blood pressure and heart rate checked often.
- Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness until you see how this drug affects your child. These are things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, toy cars, or motorized vehicles.
- To lower the chance of feeling dizzy or passing out, have your child rise slowly if your child has been sitting or lying down. Have your child be careful going up and down stairs.
- Have your child's blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by 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.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- This drug may prevent some signs of low blood sugar like

fast heartbeat. This may raise the risk of severe or long-lasting low blood sugar, especially in people with diabetes, children, and people who are fasting. This includes people who are having surgery, are not eating like normal, or are throwing up. 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.
- If your child is taking this drug and has high blood pressure, talk with the doctor before giving OTC products that may raise blood pressure. These include cough or cold drugs, diet pills, stimulants, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen or naproxen, and some natural products or aids.
- Do not stop giving this drug to your child all of a sudden. If you do, chest pain that is worse and in some cases heart attack may occur. The chance may be higher if your child has certain types of heart disease. To avoid side effects, you will want to slowly stop this drug as ordered by the doctor. Call the doctor right away if your child has new or worse chest pain or if other heart problems happen.
- This drug may make it harder to tell if your child has signs of an overactive thyroid like fast heartbeat. If your child has an overactive thyroid and stops taking this drug all

of a sudden, it may get worse and could be life-threatening. Talk with the doctor.

- If your child has had a very bad allergic reaction, talk with the doctor. Your child may have a chance of an even worse reaction if your child comes into contact with what caused the allergy. If your child uses epinephrine to treat very bad allergic reactions, talk with the doctor. Epinephrine may not work as well while your child is taking this drug.

If your child is 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.

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 low blood sugar like dizziness, headache, feeling sleepy, feeling weak, shaking, a fast heartbeat, confusion, hunger, or sweating.
- Depression.
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- Chest pain that is new or worse.
- An abnormal heartbeat that is new or worse.
- Slow heartbeat.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Feeling cold in the arms or legs.

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:

- Feeling dizzy, tired, or weak.
- Diarrhea, upset stomach, or throwing up.

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.

Regular-release tablets and oral solution:

- Give with or right after a meal.
- 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.

Oral solution:

- Have your child sit or stand to take this drug. Do not give this drug while your child is lying down.
- If the adapter has not been put in the bottle when you get it, prepare the bottle as you have been told or read the package insert. Use a new adapter with each new bottle. Do not take the adapter out of the bottle after it has been put in.

- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.

Extended-release tablets:

- Give with or right after a meal.
- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child chew or crush.
- You may break the tablet in half. Do not let your child chew or crush.
- 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.

Extended-release capsules:

- Give this drug with or without food.
- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child chew or crush.
- If your child cannot swallow this drug whole, you may sprinkle the contents on applesauce, pudding, yogurt, or other soft food. If you do this, have your child swallow the mixture within 60 minutes of mixing without chewing. Do not store for future use.
- 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.

- Those who have feeding tubes may use this drug. Use as you have been told. Flush the feeding tube after this drug is given.

Injection:

- It is given as a shot into a vein.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

All oral products:

- 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.

Injection:

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

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

All oral products:

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Protect from heat.

Oral solution:

- After opening, throw away any part not used after 30 days.

Injection:

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

All products:

- 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.

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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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