PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Miltefosine

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

Impavido

Warning

- Do not give this drug to your child during pregnancy. Use of this drug during pregnancy may cause birth defects or death of the unborn baby. If your child is able to get pregnant, a pregnancy test will need to be done to show that your child is NOT pregnant before starting this drug. Talk with the doctor.
- If your child may become pregnant, have your child use birth control while taking this drug and for 5 months after the last dose. If your child gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.
- If your child gets pregnant while taking this drug or within 5 months after the last dose, call the doctor right away.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat a certain type of infection (leishmaniasis).

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 a health problem called Sjogren-Larsson Syndrome.

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby while taking this drug and for 5 months after the last dose.

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 work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- Your child may need to have an eye exam before starting this drug.
- If your child has diarrhea or is throwing up, call your child's doctor. Your child will need to drink more fluids to keep from losing too much fluid.
- This drug may affect sperm and semen. This may affect being able to father a child. It is not known how long this may last. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.

- This drug has caused fertility problems in female animals. It is not known if it will lead to trouble getting pregnant in humans. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

- If your child has diarrhea or is throwing up, birth control pills may not work as well. If your child takes birth control pills and this happens, she needs to use an extra form of non-oral birth control like condoms.

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.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Fever.
- Testicle pain.
- Severe eye problems have happened in patients taking this drug. Call the doctor right away if bright lights bother your child's eyes, your child's eyes are watering a lot, or if your child has eye redness or pain, blurred eyesight, a white spot over the eye, loss of eyesight, or other changes in eyesight. In some people, eye changes did not go back to normal. Discuss any questions with the doctor. Eye problems may also happen with leishmaniasis.
- A severe skin reaction (Stevens-Johnson syndrome) may happen. It can cause severe health problems that may not go away, and sometimes death. Get medical help right away if your child has signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever); red or irritated eyes; or sores in the

mouth, throat, nose, or eyes.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

- Orgasm with less or no semen.

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:

- Diarrhea, stomach pain, upset stomach, throwing up, or decreased appetite.
- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Headache.
- Motion sickness.
- Swollen gland.

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.

- Give this drug with food.
- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child chew, open, break, 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.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your child's next 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.

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

- Store in the original container at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- 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 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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