MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Pegcetacoplan (Systemic

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

Empaveli

Brand Names: Canada

Empaveli

Warning

- This drug raises the risk of severe infections, especially meningococcal, *Haemophilus influenzae*, and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infections. Life-threatening and deadly infections have happened in people treated with this type of drug. These types of infections can become life-threatening or deadly very fast if not treated early. Vaccines can help lower the risk of these infections. Your child will need to get certain vaccines at least 2 weeks before starting this drug unless the doctor tells you otherwise. Even if your child has had these vaccines before, your child may need to get another one.
- Vaccines lower the risk of infections but do not prevent all infections from happening. Call the doctor right away if your child has signs of a severe infection like fever with or without a rash, fast heartbeat, chills, chest pain, trouble breathing, or cough; headache with upset stomach or throwing up, fever, or stiff neck or back; confusion; clammy skin; body aches with flu-like signs; or if light bothers your child's eyes.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat certain kidney problems.
- If your child has been given this drug for some other reason, talk with the doctor about the benefits and risks. Talk with the doctor if you have questions or concerns about giving this drug to your child.

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 not had a vaccine against meningococcal or *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection.

- If your child has a meningococcal, *Haemophilus influenzae*, or *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection.

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby while taking this drug and for 40 days 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.
- Your child may have more chance of getting infections. Have your child wash hands often. Avoid crowds and people with infections, colds, or flu.
- Be sure the patient safety card is with your child at all times and for 2 months after this drug is stopped.
- 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.
- Some people have had side effects during the infusion. Tell the doctor if your child has any side effects during the infusion.
- If your child's weight changes, talk with the doctor. The dose of this drug may need to be changed.
- 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 or may be sexually active:

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy.
- If your child may become pregnant, birth control must be used while taking this drug and for 40 days after the last dose unless the doctor says to use it for longer. Ask the doctor how long your child needs to use birth control. If your child gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.

On-body Injector:

- If your child is allergic to acrylics, talk with the doctor.

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 low potassium levels like muscle pain or weakness, muscle cramps, or a heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Chest pain or pressure or a fast heartbeat.

- Dizziness or passing out.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Swollen belly.
- Feeling confused.
- Anxiety.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Some health problems may happen after this drug is stopped. Your child will need to be watched closely for at least 2 months after stopping this drug. Call the doctor right away if your child has dark urine; swelling, warmth, or pain in the leg or arm; chest pain or pressure; coughing up blood; trouble breathing or swallowing; or stomach pain. Call the doctor right away if your child feels confused, is very tired or weak, or has weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on 1 side of the face, or change in eyesight. Call the doctor right away if your child is sexually active and is not able to get or keep an erection.

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:

- Irritation where this drug was used.
- Stomach pain or diarrhea.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Headache.
- Back, muscle, joint, arm, or leg pain.

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 under the skin over a period of time.
- It may be given using a pump or an on-body injector.
- If you will be giving your child the infusion, the doctor or nurse will teach you how to prepare and give the infusion.
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Before using this drug, take it out of the refrigerator and leave it at room temperature for 30 minutes.
- Do not heat or microwave.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- This drug is colorless to a faint yellow. Do not use if the solution changes color.
- Move the site where you give this drug as you were told by the doctor.
- Do not give into skin that is irritated, tender, bruised, red, scaly, hard, scarred, or has stretch marks.
- Do not give into skin that is tattooed.
- Throw away any part left over after the dose is given.
- 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.

Infusion pump:

- If your child's dose needs more than 1 infusion site, make sure the infusion sites are at least 3 inches apart.

On-body Injector:

- Do not use the injector if it has been dropped or if it is broken.
- Do not give into skin within 1 inch (2.5 cm) of the belly button.
- Do not let your child's clothes touch the clean skin before putting the injector on your child's stomach.
- Do not put the on-body injector where a belt, waistband, or other type of clothing may rub against it or push it off the skin.
- Do not touch the white sticky part on the bottom of the injector before you put this drug on the stomach. Do not use anything to hold the injector in place.
- Do not let your child bathe, shower, or swim after you put on the injector. Be sure your child's stomach does not get wet. Water or sweat may cause the injector to come loose.
- Do not let your child sleep while wearing the injector. Do not let your child do intense physical activity and exercise while wearing it. Be sure your child does not bump or knock the injector.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it 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 a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Store in the outer carton to protect from light.
- 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.

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.

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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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