PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Selumetinib

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

Koselugo

Brand Names: Canada

Koselugo

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1).

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 takes any drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) that must not be taken with this drug, like certain drugs that are used for HIV, infections, seizures, and others. There are many drugs that must not be taken with this drug.

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby while taking this drug and for 1 week 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?

All products:

- 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 heart function checked as you have been told by the doctor. Your child will also need to have eye exams.
- Avoid giving your child grapefruit, grapefruit juice, and Seville oranges.
- Diarrhea is common with this drug and can be severe. Talk with the doctor so you will know what to do right away if your child has diarrhea or stomach cramps. If diarrhea happens, your child will need to drink more liquids to avoid becoming dehydrated.
- 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 or loss of 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 1 week after the last dose. If your child gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.

- If your child's sex partner may become pregnant, have them use birth control while taking this drug and for 1 week after the last dose. If your child's partner gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.

Capsules:

- Talk with the doctor before you give your child other sources of vitamin E. This drug has vitamin E in it.

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:

All products:

- 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 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 skin infection like oozing, heat, swelling, redness, or pain.
- Muscle pain or weakness, dark urine, or trouble passing urine.
- Fever, chills, or sore throat.
- Heart failure (weak heart) has happened with this drug. If your child has or has ever had heart failure, talk with your child's doctor. Get medical help right away if your child has signs of heart failure like shortness of breath, a

big weight gain, coughing up white or pink mucus, fast heartbeat, waking up at night more than normal, or swelling in the arms or legs while taking this drug.

- Eye problems have happened with this drug. Some of these have been severe like retinal tear or detachment. Call the doctor if your child has blurred eyesight or other eyesight changes, including if bright lights bother your child's eyes. Get medical help right away if your child says objects look distorted or starts to see halos or bright colors around lights, flashing lights, floaters, a curtain-like shadow coming across the eye, or has sudden eyesight loss.
- It is common to get a rash with this drug. Sometimes skin reactions can be severe. Call the doctor right away if your child has a rash over a large area, blisters, peeling, or a rash that bothers your child or does not go away. Call the doctor right away if your child has redness or irritation of the palms of hands or soles of feet.

Capsules:

- Nosebleed.
- Blood in the urine.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.

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:

- Pimples (acne).
- Dry skin.
- Mouth irritation or mouth sores.
- Change in nails.
- Hair loss.

- Change in color of hair.
- Back, arm, or leg pain.
- Neck pain.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Headache.
- Stomach pain.
- Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, throwing up, and decreased appetite are common with this drug. If these happen, talk with the doctor about ways to lower these side effects. Call the doctor right away if any of these effects bother your child, do not get better, or are severe.

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.

Capsules:

- Give this drug with or without food.
- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child chew, break, open, or dissolve.
- If your child has trouble swallowing, talk with the doctor.

Oral granules:

- Do not let your child swallow the capsule whole. Do not let your child chew or crush the granules inside the capsule. Do not let your child chew, crush, dissolve, or swallow the capsule shell after opening.

- Do not give if you open the capsule and granules are clumped together or stuck to the capsule shell. If the granules do not flow freely, do not give them to your child. Call the pharmacist about what to do.
- Sprinkle this drug on a small amount (about 1 to 3 teaspoons) of smooth yogurt or fruit puree containing apple, banana, pear, or strawberry. Do not mix the granules in liquid. Do not mix them with any food that has grapefruit or Seville orange in it.
- Have your child swallow this drug within 30 minutes after mixing. If your child does not take it within 30 minutes, throw it away and mix a new dose. If your child takes only part of the dose within 30 minutes after mixing, throw away the rest and do not make more.

All products:

- 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.
- If your child throws up after taking this drug, do not repeat the dose.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is less than 6 hours until the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal time.
- Do not give 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

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

All products:

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Store in the original container. Do not take out the antimoisture cube or packet.
- Keep lid tightly closed.
- 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.

Oral granules:

- Protect from heat. Do not leave this drug at temperatures above 86°F (30°C).

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.

Last Reviewed Date

2026-06-03

Copyright

© 2026 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors. All rights reserved.

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.

Selumetinib - Last updated on December 12, 2022
All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center