PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Sildenafil

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

Liqrev [DSC]; Revatio; Viagra; Vybrique

Brand Names: Canada

ACCEL-Sildenafil; AG-Sildenafil; APO-Sildenafil; AURO-Sildenafil; BIO-Sildenafil; JAMP-Sildenafil; JAMP-Sildenafil R; M-Sildenafil; Mar-Sildenafil; MINT-Sildenafil; NRA-Sildenafil; PMS-Sildenafil R; Priva-Sildenafil [DSC]; PRZ-Sildenafil; Revatio; RIVA-Sildenafil; TEVA-Sildenafil; TEVA-Sildenafil R; UPH-Sildenafil; Viagra

What is this drug used for?

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

For erectile dysfunction (ED):

- If your child has been given this form of this drug, talk with the doctor for information 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 a health problem called pulmonary veno-occlusive disease (PVOD).
- If your child has a certain hereditary eye problem called retinitis pigmentosa.
- If your child uses drugs called “poppers” like amyl nitrite and butyl nitrite.
- If your child is taking any of these drugs: Isosorbide dinitrate, isosorbide mononitrate, or nitroglycerin. Do not give these drugs to your child with this drug. Your child may also need to avoid taking these drugs for some time after the last dose of this drug.
- If your child is taking riociguat or vericiguat.
- If your child takes any other drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins). There are many drugs that interact with this drug, like certain drugs that are used for HIV, infections, and other health problems.
- If your child is taking another drug that has the same drug in it.
- If your child is taking another drug like this one that is used to treat high pressure in the lungs.

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 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.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- Rarely, certain side effects like abnormal heartbeat, heart attack, stroke, bleeding in the lungs, and very bad high blood pressure have happened with this drug. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Most of the time, these problems happened in people who had heart problems before taking this drug. It is not known if this drug caused these problems. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Severe eye problems have rarely happened with this drug. Some of these may lead to a change in eyesight and sometimes loss of eyesight, which may not come back. Talk with the doctor.
- If your child has sickle cell disease, talk with the doctor.

If your child is pregnant or 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.
- Chest pain or pressure, a fast heartbeat, or an abnormal heartbeat.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- Severe upset stomach or throwing up.
- Weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on one side of the face, or blurred eyesight.
- Change in eyesight.
- Loss of eyesight.
- Ringing in the ears, hearing loss, or any other changes in hearing.
- Trouble breathing that is new or worse.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Fever.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Call your child's doctor right away if your child gets a painful erection (hard penis) or gets an erection that lasts for longer than 4 hours. If this is not treated right away, it may lead to lasting sex problems and your child may not be able to have sex in the future.

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.
- Flushing.
- Headache.
- Heartburn.
- Upset stomach.
- Muscle pain.
- Nosebleed.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Back, 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.

All oral products:

- Give this drug with or without food.
- 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.

Liquid (suspension):

- Shake well before use.
- Measure liquid doses carefully. Be sure you know what type of measuring device to use and how to measure the dose. If you are not sure, talk with the doctor or pharmacist.

Injection:

- It is given as a shot into a vein.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

All oral products:

- 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.

Injection:

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

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

Liquid (suspension):

- Store at room temperature or in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Throw away any unused part 60 days after this drug was mixed. Talk with your pharmacist if you are not sure when this is.

Tablets:

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

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.

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

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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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