PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Tiotropium

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

Spiriva HandiHaler; Spiriva Respimat

Brand Names: Canada

APO-Tiotropium; LUPIN-Tiotropium; Spiriva; Spiriva Respimat

What is this drug used for?

Inhaler (aerosol):

- It is used to treat asthma.
- Do not give this drug to treat an asthma attack. Use a rescue inhaler (quick relief inhaler). If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- 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.

Capsules for breathing in:

- 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 takes other drugs called anticholinergics, like ipratropium or oxybutynin. Ask the doctor if you are not sure if any of your child's drugs are anticholinergic.

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 or clear eyesight 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 help control and improve your child's breathing problem, it is important that your child does not run out of this drug. Be sure to get a refill before your child runs out.
- Call the doctor right away if your child has breathing problems that get worse, if the rescue inhaler (quick relief inhaler) does not work as well, or if your child needs to use the rescue inhaler more often.
- It may take several weeks to see the full effects.

- Be sure this drug does not get in your child's eyes. If it gets in your child's eyes, it may cause large pupils and blurred eyesight.
- Do not give more than the doctor told you to give. Do not give more often or for longer than you were told. Doing any of these things may raise the chance of severe side effects.

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.
- Signs of a urinary tract infection (UTI) like blood in the urine, burning or pain when passing urine, feeling the need to pass urine often or right away, fever, lower stomach pain, or pelvic pain.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- Eye redness.
- Seeing halos or bright colors around lights.
- Trouble passing urine, pain when passing urine, passing urine in a weak stream or drips, or passing urine more often.
- Chest pain.
- A fast heartbeat.

- Swelling.
- This drug can cause very bad breathing problems right after your child takes a dose. Sometimes, this may be life-threatening. If your child has trouble breathing, breathing that is worse, wheezing, or coughing after using this drug, have your child use a rescue inhaler (quick relief inhaler) and get medical help right away.

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:

- Dry mouth.
- Upset stomach.
- Constipation.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Stomach pain.
- Headache.

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.

- For breathing into the lungs.
- Prepare the inhaler before first use. Spray towards the ground until mist is

seen. Once the mist is seen, spray 3 more times. If it has been more than 3 days since it has been used, spray once at the ground. If not used in more than 21 days, you will need to prepare the inhaler again. Spray until mist is seen then spray 3 more times.

- Keep out of your child's eyes.
- 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.
- Follow how to clean carefully.
- After all sprays have been used, the inhaler will lock.
- If your child is using more than 1 inhaled drug, ask your child's doctor which inhaled drug to give first.
- Do not use a spacer with the inhaler.
- Use new inhaler with each refill.
- Put the cap back on after your child is done using a 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 the next day, skip the missed dose and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not give more than 1 dose of this drug in 24 hours.

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

- Store at room temperature. Do not freeze.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- After putting together, throw away the inhaler 3 months after first use or when the inhaler locks.
- 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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