PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Tiratricol

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

Emcitate

Warning

- Do not give this drug for weight loss. Serious or life-threatening side effects could happen. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat too much thyroid hormone in the body in patients with monocarboxylate transporter 8 (MCT8) deficiency (Allan-Herndon-Dudley syndrome).

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 an overactive thyroid or an underactive thyroid.
- If your child is taking other drugs to treat thyroid problems.

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, eye exams, 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.
- Talk with the doctor before giving your child products that have caffeine (for example, tea, coffee, cola, some energy drinks). Giving them along with this drug may cause fast heartbeat and high blood pressure.
- Some drugs taken by mouth may need to be given at some other time than this drug. Talk with the doctor or pharmacist to see if you need to give any of your child's other drugs at a different time than this drug.

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.
- Change in eyesight.
- New or worse signs of thyrotoxicosis may happen. Tell the doctor right away about signs like diarrhea, sweating, irritability, trouble sleeping, bad dreams, fast heartbeat, severe headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.

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:

- Throwing up.

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 or without food.
- Do not let your child swallow whole, chew, or crush.
- Be sure you know what type of oral syringe to use and how to mix this drug. If you are not sure, talk with the doctor or pharmacist.
- To mix this drug, fill about half of a clean glass with room temperature drinking water. Do not use hot or cold water. Do not use any other liquid.
- Remove the tablets for the dose from the blister pack. If the dose is more than 3 tablets, you will need to mix the dose in more than 1 batch. If the dose needs half a tablet, put the unused half back into the blister pack or the pharmacy packaging to protect from light.
- Place the tablets into an oral syringe as you have been told. Draw up room temperature water from the glass

into the syringe until it reaches the 10 mL mark on the syringe. Turn the syringe upside down and put the cap back on the syringe. Swirl for about 30 seconds until the tablets are mixed in. The tablets will not fully dissolve. The mixed drug will look white and cloudy with small particles. If the particles settle, swirl again for about 30 seconds.

- Throw this drug away if it has not been taken within 30 minutes after mixing. Do not store for use at a later time.
- Have your child sit upright when you give this drug. Remove the syringe cap. Place the tip of the syringe into the mouth on the inside of the cheek. Gently push the plunger until all the drug is gone. Do not squirt into the back of the throat. This could cause gagging or choking. Draw up 10 mL again from the glass of room temperature water into the same syringe. Swirl and give the rinse water to be sure all the drug is taken.
- Wash your hands after use.
- If vomiting happens within 30 minutes after a dose, repeat the dose 1 time. If vomiting happens again, call the doctor to find out what to do.
- Those who have feeding tubes may use this drug. Do not mix this drug with feeding formulas or into feeding bags. Use as you have been told. Flush the feeding tube after

this drug is given.

- Do not stop this drug all of a sudden without calling the doctor. There may be a greater risk of side effects. If you need to stop this drug, you will want to slowly stop it as ordered by the doctor.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If the next dose is less than 4 hours away, 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 a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Store in the original container. Protect from light (including sunlight), heat, and extreme cold.
- When traveling, use insulated containers or cold packs to keep this drug cold.
- 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.

Last Reviewed Date

2026-10-05

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.

Tiratricol - Last updated on October 7, 2026

All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center