PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Tobramycin (Oral Inhalation

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

Bethkis; Kitabis Pak (w/ nebulizer); Tobi; Tobi Podhaler

Brand Names: Canada

TEVA-Tobramycin; Tobi; Tobi Podhaler

What is this drug used for?

- It is used in people with cystic fibrosis to treat a certain type of bacterial infection.

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 is taking any of these drugs: Ethacrynic acid, furosemide, mannitol, or urea.

- If your child is taking or has recently taken any drugs that can cause nerve, kidney, or hearing problems. This may be drugs like amphotericin B, bacitracin, cephaloridine, cisplatin, colistin, cyclosporine, paromomycin, polymyxin B, vancomycin, viomycin, or other drugs like this one. There are many other drugs that can do this. Ask the doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

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, hearing, and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.

- Do not give to your child longer than you have been told. A second infection may happen.

If your child is pregnant:

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy. If your child is pregnant or gets pregnant while taking this drug, call the doctor right away.

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Tell the doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about any risks to 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 kidney problems like unable to pass urine, change in how much urine is passed, blood in the urine, or a big weight gain.
- Change in balance.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- Fever.
- Muscle weakness.
- Ringing in the ears, hearing loss, or any other changes in hearing.
- Wheezing.
- Cough that does not go away.
- Coughing up blood.
- Trouble breathing that is new or worse.

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:

- Headache.
- Cough.
- More sputum.

- Mouth pain.
- Throat pain.
- Sore throat.
- Change in taste.
- Noisy breathing.
- Change in voice.
- Stuffy nose.
- Upset stomach or 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.

Liquid for breathing in:

- Your child will use by breathing in from the mouth with a special machine (nebulizer). Your child's doctor will teach you the right way to use.

- Only use the type of nebulizer that you have been told to use. If you are not sure what type of nebulizer to use, talk with the doctor.
- 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.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- Do not mix other drugs in nebulizer.
- If your child is taking more than 1 inhaled drug, talk to the doctor about the best order for taking the drugs.
- Follow how to clean the nebulizer carefully.

Capsules for breathing in:

- Do not let your child swallow the capsule. The contents of the capsule will be breathed into the lungs.
- Only use the device that comes with this drug. Do not use any other devices.
- 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.
- Take the capsule out of the foil right before use.
- If any powder stays in the capsule, have your child

breathe out fully and repeat. When the capsule is empty, throw it away.

- If your child is taking more than 1 inhaled drug, talk to the doctor about the best order for taking the drugs.
- Use new inhaler with each refill.

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?
Liquid for breathing in:

- Store in a refrigerator or at room temperature. If stored at room temperature, throw away any part not used after 28 days.
- Store unused containers in foil pouch until use.
- Protect from light.
- Do not freeze.
- This drug may become a little darker over time if stored at room temperature. This does not affect how well the drug works as long as it is stored at room temperature as you have been told.

Capsules for breathing in:

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

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.

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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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