PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Tranexamic Acid

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
Cyklokapron; Lysteda [DSC]

Brand Names: Canada
Cyklokapron; GD-Tranexamic Acid; M-Tranexamic Acid; MAR-Tranexamic Acid

Warning
Injection:

- This drug is given as a shot into a vein only.
- Severe and sometimes deadly side effects have happened when this drug was given as an epidural or into the spine.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat or prevent bleeding in patients with hemophilia after having a tooth removed.
- It is used to treat heavy bleeding during monthly periods (menstruation).
- It may be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

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 blood clot, has ever had a blood clot, or is at risk of getting a blood clot.
- If your child has any of these health problems: Bleeding in the brain or trouble seeing some colors.
- If your child is taking any drugs that may raise the risk of blood clots. This includes factor IX complex, anti-inhibitor coagulant complex, or a hormone-based birth control. There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If your child has a type of cancer called acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) and is being treated with

tretinoin.

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 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.
- Blood clots have happened with this drug. Tell the doctor if your child has ever had a blood clot.

- Get your child an eye exam as you have been told by the doctor.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

- If your child is trying to avoid pregnancy, have your child use a non-hormone type of birth control like a condom when taking 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.

Tablets:

- If your child still has heavy periods (menstrual bleeding) after 2 cycles or if this drug stops working, talk with the doctor.

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.
- Flushing.
- 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, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- Seizures.
- Twitching.
- Trouble controlling body movements.
- Call the doctor right away if your child has signs of a blood clot like chest pain or pressure; coughing up blood; shortness of breath; swelling, warmth, numbness, change of color, or pain in a leg or arm; or trouble speaking or swallowing.

Injection:

- Severe dizziness or passing out.

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:

Tablets:

- Headache.
- Stomach pain.
- Back, muscle, or joint pain.
- Nose stuffiness.
- Muscle cramps.
- Feeling tired or weak.

Injection:

- Diarrhea, upset stomach, or throwing up.
- Dizziness.

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.

Tablets:

- Give this drug with or without food.
- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child chew, break, or crush.
- Do not give this drug to your child for longer than you were told by the doctor.
- Do not give during times when your child does not have a period.

Injection:

- It is given into a vein for a period of time.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

Tablets:

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it. Then, give the next dose at least 6 hours later.
- 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?

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.

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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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