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## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Mesna

This information from Lexicomp® 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**

Mesnex

### **Brand Names: Canada**

Uromitexan

### **What is this drug used for?**

- It is used to lower the bad effects of some cancer drugs on the bladder.
- This drug is used with ifosfamide. Talk with the doctor about the risks and side effects that may happen with ifosfamide.

### **What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?**

#### **All products:**

- 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 breast-feeding a baby:**

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby while taking this drug and for 1 week after the last dose.

### **Injection:**

- If the patient is a newborn or infant. This drug has benzyl alcohol in it. Benzyl alcohol may cause severe and sometimes deadly side effects in newborns or infants. Do not give this drug to a newborn or infant.

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.

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 urine 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.
- If your child has high blood sugar (diabetes), some urine ketone tests may be wrong. Talk with the doctor.

### **If your child is pregnant:**

- Tell the doctor if your child is pregnant or becomes pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of your child using this drug while pregnant.

### **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 low potassium levels like muscle pain or weakness, muscle cramps, or a heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is passed.
- Flushing.
- Muscle or joint pain.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- Chest pain or pressure or a fast heartbeat.
- Blood in the urine.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- Flu-like signs.
- Fever or chills.
- Swollen gland.
- Very bad belly pain.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- If bright lights bother your child's eyes.
- Pain when passing urine.
- Anxiety.

- Feeling confused.
- A very bad skin reaction (Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis) may happen. It can cause very bad health problems that may not go away, and sometimes death. Get medical help right away if your child has signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever); red or irritated eyes; or sores in the mouth, throat, nose, or eyes.

### **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:

### **All products:**

- Hair loss.
- Diarrhea.
- Constipation.
- Feeling sleepy.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Not hungry.
- Headache.
- Belly pain.
- Feeling tired or weak.

- Nose or throat irritation.
- Gas.
- Back pain.
- Dry mouth.
- Sweating a lot.

### **Injection:**

- Irritation where the shot is given.

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 products:**

- Have your child drink 4 to 8 cups (1 to 2 liters) of fluid per day unless the doctor has told you something else.

### **Tablets:**

- Tell your child's doctor if your child throws up within 2 hours

of taking an oral dose. Dose may need to be repeated.

### **Injection:**

- This drug is given as a shot into a vein.

### **What do I do if my child misses a dose?**

- 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.
- Store 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 information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive



from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

## **Last Reviewed Date**

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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