MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Mitotane

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

Lysodren

Brand Names: Canada

Lysodren

Warning

- This drug lowers how much natural steroid your child’s adrenal gland makes. If your child has fever, infection, severe injury, or surgery, tell the doctor right away. Your child may need to stop this drug for a period of time or take extra doses of steroid. Your child’s body’s normal response to these stresses may be affected. This can cause severe side effects or even death.
- Tell the doctor right away if your child has signs of adrenal gland problems like severe weakness, confusion, lower back or leg pain, stomach pain, nausea, throwing up, diarrhea, decreased appetite, weight loss, dizziness or passing out, feeling very tired or sleepy, feeling depressed or irritable, hair loss, areas of darkened skin, or salt craving. Tell the doctor right away if your child has signs of low blood sugar like headache, feeling weak, shaking, a fast heartbeat, hunger, or sweating.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat cancer of the adrenal gland.
- 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 any of these health problems: Kidney or liver disease.
- If your child is taking any of these drugs: Spironolactone or warfarin.
- If your child is breast-feeding a baby. Be sure your child does not breast-feed while taking this drug. Your child may also need to avoid breast-feeding for some time after the last dose. Talk with your child's doctor to see if your child needs to avoid breast-feeding after the last dose.

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.
- If your child will be having surgery or dental work, talk with the doctor.
- 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.
- To lower the chance of feeling dizzy or passing out, have your child rise slowly if your child has been sitting or lying down. Have your child be careful going up and down stairs.
- Have your child’s blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- This drug may cause high cholesterol and triglyceride levels. Talk with the doctor.
- If your child is overweight, has recently lost weight,

or plans to lose weight, talk with the doctor. The level of this drug in your child’s body may need closer watching.

- This drug may lower the ability of the bone marrow to make blood cells that the body needs. If blood cell counts get very low, this can lead to bleeding problems, infections, or anemia. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- If the patient is a child or teenager, talk with the doctor about the use of this drug. This drug may affect growth in children and teens. It may also cause other serious side effects.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

- Birth control pills and other hormone-based birth control may not work as well to prevent pregnancy. Talk with your child’s doctor about what type of birth control to have your child use and how long to use it.
- Have your child use a non-hormone type of birth control like condoms or diaphragms and spermicide while taking this drug. Your child will also need to use it after stopping this drug until there is no more of this drug in the body. Talk with your child’s doctor to see how long your child needs to use birth control after stopping this drug.

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby or loss of the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy.
- If your child is of childbearing age, a pregnancy test will need to be done before starting this drug to make sure your child is not pregnant.
- If your child gets pregnant while taking this drug or within several months after the last dose, call the doctor right away.

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 weak adrenal gland like a severe upset

stomach or throwing up, severe dizziness or passing out, muscle weakness, feeling very tired, mood changes, decreased appetite, or weight loss.

- Signs of low thyroid levels like constipation; not able to handle cold; memory problems; mood changes; or a burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Signs of high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- Signs of bleeding like throwing up or coughing up blood; vomit that looks like coffee grounds; blood in the urine; black, red, or tarry stools; bleeding from the gums; abnormal vaginal bleeding; bruises without a cause or that get bigger; or bleeding you cannot stop.

- Pale skin.
- Change in eyesight.
- Feeling confused.
- Depression.
- Change in balance.
- Change in speech.
- Trouble thinking or focusing.
- Enlarged breasts.
- Ovarian cysts have happened with this drug in people who have not been through menopause. Sometimes, severe effects like twisting of the ovaries (ovarian torsion) or ruptured cysts have happened. Call your child’s doctor right away if your child has vaginal bleeding that is not normal or pelvic pain.

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:

- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Headache.

- Flushing.
- Heartburn.
- Change in taste.
- Diarrhea, throwing up, upset stomach, and decreased appetite are common with this drug. If these happen, talk with your child’s doctor about ways to lower these side effects. Call your child’s doctor right away if any of these effects bother your child, do not get better, or are severe.

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 food. It is best to give this drug with a high-fat meal or snack. Ask your child’s doctor what types of foods are best to eat with this drug.
- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child

chew, break, or crush.

- Do not give this drug if it is broken, cracked, or looks damaged.
- If your child throws up after taking a dose, do not repeat the dose. Give the next dose at your child's normal time.
- You will need to take special care when handling this drug. Check with the doctor or pharmacist to see how to handle this drug.
- Caregivers need to wear gloves when giving this drug.
- 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.

What do I do if my child misses a 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.

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

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

2024-01-22

Copyright

© 2024 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors. All rights reserved.

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

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

Mitotane - Last updated on December 12, 2022
All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center