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PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Pegvaliase

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

Palynziq

## Warning

- Allergic reactions have happened during treatment with this drug. Sometimes, these have been life-threatening. This can happen at any time, but it happens most often within 1 hour after getting this drug. A healthcare provider will watch you closely for at least 60 minutes after your first dose. If needed, a healthcare provider may need to watch you closely for other doses as well.
- Get medical help right away if you have any chest pain; dizziness or passing out; fast heartbeat; flushing; not able to control urine or stools; rash, itching, or raised bumps on the skin; swelling of your face, lips, eyes, or tongue; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing or wheezing; very upset stomach, throwing up, or diarrhea; or any other bad effects.
- Your doctor will give you another drug (epinephrine) to use in case of an allergic reaction. Keep it with you at all times while taking this drug. Be sure you know how and when to use it. Get medical help right away after using epinephrine.
- Your doctor may tell you to have an adult nearby in case you have an allergic reaction. If this is needed, be sure that person watches you closely when you use a dose and for at least 60 minutes after your dose. Be sure he/she knows where epinephrine is stored and how to give it if needed.
- Your doctor will tell you how to take this drug. Be sure you know how much

to take, how often to take this drug, and how to store this drug. If your doctor does not tell you how to use this drug or if you are not sure how to use it, talk with your doctor.

- You may only get this drug through a special program. Talk with your doctor.

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

- It is used to treat phenylketonuria (PKU).

## **What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?**

- If you have an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
- If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

## **What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Follow the diet plan that your doctor told you about.
- Skin reactions that lasted at least 2 weeks have happened with this drug. Tell your doctor right away if you have a skin reaction while you are using this

drug.

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant.
- If you get pregnant while taking this drug or within 1 month after your last dose, call your doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

## **What are some side effects that I need to call my 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 doctor or get medical help right away if you have 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.
- Very bad irritation where the shot was given.

## **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 doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Irritation where the shot is given.
- Joint pain.
- Headache.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Diarrhea.
- Belly pain.
- Mouth pain.

- Throat pain.
- Cough.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Anxiety.
- Hair loss.
- Stuffy nose.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

## **How is this drug best taken?**

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- It is given as a shot into the fatty part of the skin.
- Do not give into skin within 2 inches of the belly button.
- If you will be giving yourself the shot, your doctor or nurse will teach you how to give the shot.
- Follow how to use as you have been told by the doctor or read the package insert.
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Do not give into red or irritated skin.
- Do not give into a mole, scar, or bruise.
- Do not give into skin that is tattooed or scarred.
- Do not give into a birthmark.
- Do not shake.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- This drug is colorless to a faint yellow. Do not use if the solution changes color.

- If your dose is more than 1 injection, you may give in the same body part. However, do not give injections within 2 inches of each other.
- Throw away needles in a needle/sharp disposal box. Do not reuse needles or other items. When the box is full, follow all local rules for getting rid of it. Talk with a doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.
- Other drugs may be given with this drug to help avoid side effects.

## **What do I do if I miss a dose?**

- Skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 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 carton to protect from light.
- If needed, you may store at room temperature.
- If stored at room temperature, throw away any unused drug after 30 days or after the expiration date, whichever comes first.
- Do not put this drug back in the refrigerator after it has been stored at room temperature.
- 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 symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC)

with you. Give this list to your doctor.

- Talk with the doctor before starting any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
- 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 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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