



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Sodium Chloride

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

4-Way Saline [OTC]; Afrin Saline Nasal Mist [OTC]; Altachlore [OTC]; Altamist Spray [OTC]; Atrapro Dermal Spray; Ayr Nasal Mist Allergy/Sinus [OTC]; Ayr Saline Nasal Drops [OTC]; Ayr Saline Nasal Gel [OTC]; Ayr Saline Nasal Neti Rinse [OTC]; Ayr Saline Nasal No-Drip [OTC]; AYR Saline Nasal Rinse [OTC]; Ayr Saline Nasal [OTC]; Ayr [OTC]; Baby Ayr Saline [OTC]; Broncho Saline [OTC] [DSC]; Deep Sea Nasal Spray [OTC]; DiaB Klenz [OTC]; Elta Dermal Wound Cleanser [OTC]; Entsol Nasal [OTC]; Humist [OTC] [DSC]; HyperSal; Liquivida Hydration; MicroKlenz Wound Cleanser [OTC]; Muro 128 [OTC]; Na-Zone [OTC] [DSC]; Nasal Moist [OTC]; Nebusal; Ocean Complete Sinus Rinse [OTC]; Ocean for Kids [OTC]; Ocean Nasal Spray [OTC]; Ocean Ultra Saline Mist [OTC]; Pretz Irrigation [OTC]; Pretz [OTC]; PulmoSal; RadiaKlenz [OTC]; Remedy 4-in-1 Body Cleanser [OTC]; Rhinaris [OTC]; Safe Wash [OTC]; Saline Flush ZR; Saline Mist Spray [OTC]; Saljet Rinse [OTC]; Saljet [OTC]; Sea Soft Nasal Mist [OTC] [DSC]; Sea-Clens Wound Cleanser [OTC] [DSC]; Sochlor [OTC]; SwabFlush Saline Flush; Ultra-Klenz [OTC]; Wound Wash Saline [OTC]

What is this drug used for?

Injection and tablet:

- It is used to treat low sodium levels.

Injection:

- It is used to treat fluid loss.
- It is used to mix with a drug that is given as a shot.

Flush:

- It is used to flush IV sets and access devices.

For use in the eye:

- It is used to lower swelling.

Liquid for breathing in:

- It is used to thin mucus so it can be taken from the body by coughing.
- It is used to mix with other drugs for use in a special machine (nebulizer).

All nose products:

- It is used to treat dry or irritated nose passages.
- It is used to thin fluid in the nose passages.

All skin products:

- It is used to clean wounds.

All products:

- 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?**All products:**

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

Injection and tablet:

- If your child has high sodium levels or swelling.

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 for your child to take this drug with all of his/her 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.

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.

Injection and tablet:

- If your child is on a low-salt or salt-free diet, talk with your child's doctor.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.

All eye products:

- Have your child use care when doing tasks that call for clear eyesight.

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.

Injection and tablet:

- Signs of electrolyte problems like mood changes, confusion, muscle pain or weakness, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, seizures, not hungry, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.

Injection:

- Very bad dizziness or passing out.
- Fever or chills.
- Shakiness.
- Chest pain or pressure or a fast heartbeat.
- Flushing.
- Burning, stinging, or redness where this drug goes into the body.
- Pain and irritation where this drug goes into the body.

All eye products:

- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or very bad eye irritation.

All nose products:

- Very bad nose irritation.

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 eye products:

- Burning.
- Eye irritation.

Tablets:

- Upset stomach or throwing up.

All nose products:

- Nose irritation.

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. Give with food if it causes an upset stomach.
- You may dissolve the tablet in water and have your child drink.

Injection:

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.

Flush:

- Follow what the doctor has told you to do.

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.

All nose products:

- Do not give this drug by mouth. Use in your child's nose only. Keep out of your child's mouth and eyes (may burn).
- Have your child blow nose before use.

All skin products:

- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Clean affected part before use. Make sure to dry well.

All eye products:

- For the eye only.
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Have your child take out his/her contact lenses before using this drug. Lenses may be put back in 15 minutes after this drug is given. Do not put lenses back in if your child's eyes are irritated or infected.
- Do not touch the container tip to your child's eye, lid, or other skin.

Eye drops:

- Tilt your child's head back and drop drug into the eye.
- Gently press the skin under the lower eyelid and pull the lower eyelid away from the eye slightly until you can see a small pouch.
- After giving this drug, ask your child to keep eyes closed. Put light pressure on the inside corner of the eye. Do this for 1 to 2 minutes. This keeps the drug in your child's eye.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- Do not use if solution changes color.

Eye ointment:

- Gently pull down the lower lid and squeeze in how much the doctor told you to use.

- Let go of the lower eyelid and have your child keep eyes closed for 1 to 2 minutes.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

Injection:

- Call your child's doctor to find out what to do.

All other products:

- If your child uses this drug on a regular basis, give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- 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.
- Many times this drug is used on an as needed basis. Do not use more often than told by the doctor.

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

Injection and flush:

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your child's doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

All other products:

- Store at room temperature. Do not freeze.
- Protect from heat.
- 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.
- Keep a list of all your child's drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child's doctor.
- Talk with your child's doctor before giving your child 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 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.

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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 to search our virtual library.

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