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PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Vitamin B Complex Combinations

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.

## Warning

### **If your product has iron in it:**

- Accidental overdose of drugs that have iron in them is a leading cause of deadly poisoning in children younger than 6 years of age. Keep away from children. If this drug is taken by accident, call a doctor or poison control center right away.

## What is this drug used for?

### **All products:**

- It is used to help growth and good health.
- It may be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

### **If your product has iron in it:**

- It is used to treat or prevent low iron in the body.

## **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 taking levodopa.

### **If your product has iron in it:**

- If your child has too much iron in the body.
- If your child has certain types of anemia like pernicious anemia or hemolytic anemia.

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.
- 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 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.

### **If your product has iron in it:**

- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may prevent other drugs taken by mouth from getting into the body. If you take other drugs by mouth, you may need to take them at some other time than this drug. Talk with your doctor.

### **All oral products:**

- If your child is allergic to tartrazine, talk with your child's doctor. Some products have tartrazine.
- Not all products are meant for use in children. Talk with the

doctor.

### **Chewable tablets and liquid:**

- If your child has phenylketonuria (PKU), talk with your child's doctor. Some products have phenylalanine.

### **Injection:**

- Very bad and sometimes deadly allergic reactions have rarely happened. Talk with your child's 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.

### **If your product has iron in it:**

- Very upset stomach or throwing up.
- Black, tarry, or bloody stools.
- Fever.
- Very bad belly pain.
- Throwing up blood or throw up that looks like coffee grounds.
- Stomach cramps.

### **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:**

- Diarrhea.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Belly pain.
- Not hungry.
- Gas.
- Bad taste in your mouth.

### **If your product has iron in it:**

- Constipation.

- Change in color of stool to green.

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 oral products:**

- Some drugs may need to be given with food or on an empty stomach. For some drugs, it does not matter. Check with your pharmacist about how to give this drug to your child.

### **Long-acting products:**

- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child chew, break, or crush.

### **Chewable tablet:**

- Have your child chew well before swallowing.

### **All liquid products:**

- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a

device to measure this drug.

### **Sublingual (under the tongue):**

- Shake well before use.
- Place under the tongue. Have your child hold there for 30 seconds before swallowing.

### **All other liquid products:**

- Some of these drugs need to be shaken before use. Be sure you know if this product needs to be shaken before using it.

### **Injection:**

- It is given as a shot.

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

#### **All oral products:**

- 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.

### **Injection:**

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

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

## **All oral products:**

- Store at room temperature.
- Protect from heat.
- Protect from light.
- 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 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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