MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Deferiprone

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

Ferriprox; Ferriprox Twice-A-Day

Brand Names: Canada

Ferriprox; Ferriprox MR

Warning

- This drug may lower the ability of the bone marrow to make white blood cells. This can lead to severe and sometimes deadly infections. Your child will need to have blood work checked before and while taking this drug.
- Call your child’s doctor right away if your child has any signs of infection like fever, chills, flu-like signs, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or a wound that will not heal. Your child will need to have a blood test within 24 hours. Be sure you know what to do if your child has signs of infection and you are not able to reach the doctor right away.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to get rid of iron when too much is in the body.

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 ever had a low white blood cell count during past use of this drug or another drug like this one.
- If your child is taking any of these drugs: Diclofenac, probenecid, or silymarin (milk thistle).

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby while taking this drug and for 2 weeks after the last dose.

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?

- 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.
- Your child may have more chance of getting infections. Have your child wash hands often. Avoid crowds and people with infections, colds, or flu.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- You may need to give your child zinc while your child takes this drug. Talk with your child’s doctor.
- Do not give antacids, foods, multivitamins, or other products that have aluminum, iron, or zinc within 4 hours before or 4 hours after this drug.
- Your child must have a pregnancy test to show that she is NOT pregnant before starting this drug.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy.

- If your child or your child’s partner may become pregnant, birth control must be used while taking this drug and for some time after the last dose. Ask the doctor how long birth control must be used. If your child or your child’s partner gets pregnant, 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.
- Purple spots or redness of the skin.

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:

For all patients taking this drug:

- Joint pain.
- Stomach pain.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- This drug may change the urine to a reddish brown color. This is normal and not harmful.

People with sickle cell disease or other anemias:

- Diarrhea.
- Fever.
- Nose irritation.
- Mouth or throat pain or irritation.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Bone pain.
- Pain in arms or legs.
- Back pain.

- Headache.
- Cough.

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:

- Giving this drug with meals may help with upset stomach.

Tablets:

- If your child has trouble swallowing, talk with the doctor.

Liquid:

- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug.

- After giving the dose, rinse the measuring device with water and have your child drink.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- 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.

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

Tablets:

- Store tablets in the original container at room temperature. Keep the cap tightly closed.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

Liquid:

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Store in the original container to protect from light.
- After opening, throw away any part not used after 35 days.

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.

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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.

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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.

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