

About your medication

OXYBUTYNIN

(Ditropan® 5mg tablets)

Other brands may be available

WHAT IS OXYBUTYNIN?

Oxybutynin is from a group of medications called anticholinergics. It is also called an antispasmodic. It is only available on a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

It helps to relax the muscles of the bladder. This decreases the frequent urge to urinate which can be caused by spasms of the bladder muscle.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and is not given to other people. The dose is usually taken twice a day but your doctor may increase this to three times a day.

It does not matter whether oxybutynin is given with food or on an empty stomach.

Tablets may be crushed, if necessary, before swallowing.

WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of the medication it can be given as soon as you remember. Do not give the missed dose if it is close to the next one; just give the next dose as normal. **Do not double-up on any doses.**

STORING THE MEDICINE

It is important to keep oxybutynin locked away out of the reach of children. Do not keep the tablets in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct light.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Care must be taken when using oxybutynin with some other medications. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription medicine or medicine purchased without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop. This is important for

- medications with anti-cholinergic properties (such as tricyclic antidepressants, phenothiazines, some antihistamines or some drugs used to treat abdominal cramps)
 - medications which cause drowsiness (such as some medication for allergies, colds and hayfever, or alcohol)
 - Cisapride. Oxybutynin may counteract gastrointestinal motility normally induced by cisapride.
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This list is not complete. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Do not stop taking oxybutynin without first checking with the doctor.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can occur while taking oxybutynin. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- Constipation or abdominal pain
- Some changes in behaviour such as irritability or restlessness.
- Drowsiness, dry eyes or blurred vision. This may cause problems during some activities such as bike riding or difficulty reading at school. The eyes may also be more sensitive to sunlight, this can be helped by wearing sunglasses.
- Dryness of mouth, throat and nose. For temporary relief chew sugarless gum or candy, suck small bits of ice, give frequent sips of water or use a saliva substitute. If your child's mouth continues to feel dry for more than two weeks, contact your doctor or dentist. Continuing dryness in the mouth can increase the chance of dental disease including dental decay, gum disease and fungal infections.
- Decreased sweating can make your child feel hotter. This may cause your child to get red in the face or feel like they have a fever. Be careful in hot weather or when your child is playing/exercising. If this occurs contact the doctor straight away.

More Serious (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- Fast, irregular or pounding heartbeat, flushing, dizziness
- Hallucinations, nightmares, confusion, nervousness, paranoia, agitation
- Convulsions (fits)
- Numbness of the hands and feet
- Difficulty urinating
- Fever or heat stroke

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT



***Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard
on 03 9345 5522***

OR

***Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26
(24 hour service)***

This leaflet answers some common questions about your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – OCTOBER 2010.
