



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Foslevodopa and Foscarbidopa

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

Vyalev

Brand Names: Canada

Vyalev

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat Parkinson's disease.

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

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have any of these health problems: Glaucoma, a skin lump or growth, or a history of skin cancer.
- If you have taken certain drugs for depression or Parkinson's disease in the last 14 days. This includes isocarboxazid, phenelzine, tranylcypromine, selegiline, or rasagiline. Very high blood pressure may happen.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

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.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert until you see how this drug affects you.
- To lower the chance of feeling dizzy or passing out, rise slowly if you have been sitting or lying down. Be careful going up and down stairs.
- Have your blood work and heart function checked as you have been told by your doctor. You may also need to have eye exams.
- Have your blood pressure checked. Talk with your doctor.
- If you are on a low-salt or salt-free diet, talk with your doctor.
- This drug may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take this drug.
- Talk with your doctor before you use alcohol, marijuana or other forms of cannabis, or prescription or OTC drugs that may slow your actions.
- If this drug “wears off” during the infusion, talk with your doctor. Your doctor may need to change your dose.
- Talk with your doctor if this drug stops working well. Do not take more than ordered.
- Do not suddenly stop taking this drug or lower your dose without talking to your doctor. Side effects may happen. Some side effects can be severe or even deadly. Symptoms may include fever, muscle cramps or stiffness, dizziness, severe headache, confusion, change in thinking, fast or abnormal heartbeat, or sweating a lot. Call your doctor right away if you

have any of these symptoms.

- The chance of a type of skin cancer called melanoma may be raised in people with Parkinson's disease. It is not known if this drug may also raise the chance. Have skin exams while you take this drug. Talk with your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the 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.
- Signs of high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- New or worse behavior or mood changes like depression or thoughts of suicide.
- Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there).
- Feeling confused.
- Strong urges that are hard to control (such as eating, gambling, sex, or spending money).
- A skin lump or growth.
- Change in color or size of a mole.
- Trouble controlling body movements that is new or worse.

- Eyelid twitching.
- Muscle twitching.
- Chest pain or pressure, a fast heartbeat, or an abnormal heartbeat.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Change in balance or falling.
- Some people have fallen asleep during activities like driving, eating, or talking. Some people did not feel sleepy and felt alert right before falling asleep. If you fall asleep during activities, do not drive or do other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert while you take this drug. Call your doctor right away if this happens or you feel very sleepy.
- Irritation and infection are common at the place this drug goes into the body. Sometimes, these infections can be severe. Tell the doctor right away if you have redness, warmth, swelling, pain, color change when you press the area, or any other unusual effects where this drug goes into the body.

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:

- Feeling dizzy or sleepy.
- Constipation.

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.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also

report side effects at <https://www.fda.gov/medwatch>.

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 an infusion under the skin over a period of time.
- Do not give into a muscle or vein.
- If you will be giving yourself the infusion, your doctor or nurse will teach you how to prepare and give your infusion.
- This drug is used in the stomach area. Do not use within 2 inches (5 cm) of the belly button.
- Change to a new site at least every 3 days. Do not use within 1 inch (2.5 cm) of a site that has been used within the last 12 days.
- Do not give into skin that is tender, bruised, red, hard, scarred, or damaged.
- Do not shake.
- This drug is clear and may be colorless to light yellow to brown. It may have a purple or red tint. Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has flakes or particles.
- Before using this drug, take it out of the refrigerator and leave it at room temperature for 30 minutes.
- Each vial is for one use only. Throw away any part not used after the dose is given.
- Do not use if this drug has been in the syringe for longer than 24 hours. Throw it away.
- Do not bathe, shower, or swim with the pump. You may stop this drug for a short amount of time to do things like take a shower. If you need to stop this drug for longer than 1 hour, talk to your doctor about how to restart it.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Talk to your doctor to find out what to do if you stop this drug for longer than 1 hour.

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

- Store in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Do not use if it has been frozen.
- If needed, you may store at room temperature up to 86°F (30°C) for up to 28 days. Write down the date you take this drug out of the refrigerator. If stored at room temperature and not used within 28 days, throw this drug away.
- 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.
- 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.
- This drug comes with an extra patient fact sheet called a Medication Guide. Read it with care. Read it again each time this drug is refilled. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with the doctor,

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 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>.

Last Reviewed Date

2024-10-21

Copyright

© 2024 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors. All rights reserved.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

Foslevodopa and Foscarbidopa - Last updated on October 24, 2024

All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center