

BACLOFEN (LIORESAL®)

Baclofen (BACK-lo-fin) is the generic name for Lioresal® (lie-OR-ah-sol). This is a medicine used to decrease the muscle spasms that cause the arms or legs to bend, jerk, or twitch. It also relieves pain due to muscle spasms, clonus (rhythmic jerking), and muscle stiffness.

HOW TO GIVE THIS MEDICINE

- Read the label carefully and make sure you are giving your child the right dose. It is easy to confuse the many different dosage forms and strengths.
- Give the exact dose of medicine that your doctor ordered.
- Stay with your child until he or she has swallowed the dose of medicine.
- If your child is taking baclofen liquid, shake this medicine before using it.
- If the medicine is a liquid, use a pediatric measuring device (available at the pharmacy) or a measuring spoon to measure the exact dose. Do not measure liquid medicines in kitchen spoons.
- This medicine should be given with food.
- It's very important to give the medicine every day as ordered, even if your child is feeling fine. Do not change doses or stop the medicine without talking to your child's doctor.

IF YOU FORGET TO GIVE A DOSE

If you forget to give a dose of this medicine, give it as soon as possible. If it's almost time for the next dose, don't give the missed dose at all. Don't double the next dose. Instead, go back to your regular dosing schedule. If you have any questions about this, check with your child's doctor or pharmacist.

IF A DOSE IS VOMITED

- If your child gags or chokes and spits out the dose before swallowing it, let the child calm down and then give the same amount one more time.
- Even if the medicine is vomited (thrown up) right after giving it, some of the medicine may still be in the stomach. Don't repeat the dose unless it's in tablet form and you can see that the whole tablet was vomited.
- An overdose is more dangerous than missing part of a dose. It can cause sedation (sleepiness) or decreased breathing. If the vomiting continues, call your child's doctor.

MEDICINE STORAGE

- Store all medicine out of the reach of children.
- Always keep medicine in the original bottle from the pharmacy.
- Baclofen liquid should be kept in the refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Moisture makes baclofen tablets not work as well. Keep the bottle tightly closed and store it in a dry place (not in the bathroom or above the kitchen sink).
- Don't use this medicine after the expiration date printed on the container.
- When the medication is no longer needed, mix the medicine with an unwanted material like coffee grounds or kitty litter. Throw the container away in the trash where children and pets cannot reach it.

DRUG NUTRIENT INTERACTIONS

This medicine should not be taken with these foods, products, and/or medicines:

- This medicine should not be taken with other medicines, herbal supplements, or alcohol products that may also cause sleepiness and decreased breathing.
- Your child should not drink alcohol. Taking this medicine with alcohol can cause sedation (sleepiness) and breathing problems and can be dangerous. Some cold medicines, cough syrups and mouthwashes contain alcohol. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving over-the-counter medicines.
- Don't give over-the-counter medicines (such as pain medicines, antacids, or cold medicines) without checking with your child's doctor or pharmacist first.
- If your child is taking any other medicine or herbal supplements, tell your doctor and pharmacist. Certain medicines should not be taken with baclofen.

WARNINGS

If your child is allergic to baclofen, he or she **should not** take this medicine.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR FEMALE PATIENTS

- If a patient thinks she might be pregnant, she should tell the doctor before she begins taking this or any medicine.
- If a patient is breast-feeding her baby, she should tell her doctor before she begins taking this or any medicine.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

- Nausea, Upset stomach (feeling like throwing up)
- Constipation
- Dizziness, confusion, or fainting
- Daytime sleepiness (sedation), fatigue
- Muscle weakness or pain
- Headache (new or unexplained after starting baclofen)
- Difficult urination
- Shortness of breath
- Seizures (Rare-occur in less than 1 percent of patients)

WHAT TO DO ABOUT SIDE EFFECTS

- If your child becomes sleepy, don't let him ride a bike or operate machinery (such as a lawnmower or car), or take part in any activities where he must stay alert & awake.
- If your child has upset stomach or nausea, give baclofen with food.

WHEN TO CALL FOR EMERGENCY HELP (911)

Call for emergency help (**911**) if your child has any of these signs of an allergic reaction:

- Trouble breathing
- Swelling of the tongue
- Swelling of hands, feet or ankles

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Call your child's doctor if your child is having any side effects that continue or are very bothersome.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Ask your pharmacist for two labeled bottles if your daycare provider will be giving this medicine.
- Get this prescription refilled at least 3 days before the last dose is given. This is very important. Liquid baclofen is made special for your child and must be ordered 3 days before it is needed.
- Some pharmacies may not have liquid baclofen. Please ask your nurse to call your pharmacy before you leave the hospital to see if they have this medicine or can make it for your child. You may also have the prescription filled at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Pharmacy.

OTHER ADVICE ABOUT THE MEDICINE

- Tell your child's doctor and pharmacist if your child has a strange or allergic reaction to any medicine.
- If you carry medicine in your purse, keep it in its childproof bottle and keep your purse out of the reach of children.
- Bring all your child's medicines with you in the original bottles whenever your child sees a doctor, goes to an emergency room, or is admitted to the hospital. This helps doctors who may not know your child.
- Learn the name, spelling, and dose of this medicine. Also, teach your child if he is old enough. You will need to know this information when you call your doctor or pharmacist.
- If your child takes too much of this medicine, or if someone else takes this medicine, first call the Central Ohio Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 (TTY 614-228-2272). They will tell you what to do.
- Overdose of this medicine can cause sleepiness or breathing problems.
- Don't stop giving this medicine or change the amount given without first talking with your child's doctor or pharmacist. Stopping this medicine too quickly can cause increased muscle spasms, hallucinations, or seizures. Do not stop this medicine abruptly; it must be decreased slowly by your child's doctor.
- The doctor has prescribed this medicine for your child only. Don't give it to anyone else.
- Your child's school will need a note from you and from the doctor if the medicine is to be given at school by the school nurse.
- Tell your child's teacher, school nurse, coach, babysitter, and others that your child is taking this medicine and what side effects to watch for.

FOLLOW-UP VISITS

If you have any questions, be sure to ask your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

- Your child's next doctor's visit is on (date) _____ at (time) _____.
- Be sure to call your doctor if you can't keep the appointment.

OTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, be sure to ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.