Medicines for Children

Information for parents and carers



Lisdexamfetamine for ADHD

This leaflet is for parents and carers about how to use this medicine in children. Our information may differ from that provided by the manufacturers, because their information usually relates to adults. Read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

Do not stop giving lisdexamfetamine suddenly without talking to your doctor first.

Name of medicine

Lisdexamfetamine

Brand name: Elvanse

Why is it important for my child to have this medicine?

Lisdexamfetamine will help to reduce the symptoms of hyperactivity and impulsive behaviour. It also helps to improve attention and concentration span. It is used as part of a comprehensive treatment programme that includes behavioural therapy.

What is lisdexamfetamine available as?

Capsules: 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 50 mg, 60 mg, and 70 mg; capsules contain gelatin

When should I give lisdexamfetamine?

Lisdexamfetamine is usually given **once** each day. Ideally this is in the morning, as it may affect your child's sleep if given before bedtime.

Give the medicine at about the same time each day so that this becomes part of your child's daily routine, which will help you to remember.

How much should I give?

Your doctor will work out the amount of medicine (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label.

Your doctor will probably start with a low dose and then increase it gradually to find the lowest dose that works for your child.

It is important that you follow your doctor's instructions about how much to give.

How should I give it?

Capsules should be swallowed whole with a glass of water, juice or squash. Your child should not chew the capsule.

You can open the capsule and mix the contents with a small amount of soft food such as yogurt or jam, or a small glass of water, fruit juice or squash. Make sure your child swallows it all straight away, without chewing.

When should the medicine start to work?

It may take 3–4 weeks for lisdexamfetamine to work properly so you may not see much difference in your child's symptoms for the first few weeks. It is important that you continue to give the medicine as you have been told to.

What if my child is sick (vomits)?

- If your child is sick less than 30 minutes after having a dose of lisdexamfetamine, give them the same dose again.
- If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after having a dose of lisdexamfetamine, do not give another dose. Wait until the next normal dose.
- If your child is sick again, seek advice from your doctor, pharmacist or hospital.

What if I forget to give it?

- If you remember up to 12 hours after you should have given the dose, give the missed dose.
- If you remember after this time, do not give the missed dose. Wait until the next normal dose.

Never give a double dose of lisdexamfetamine .

What if I think I may have given too much?

If you think you may have given your child too much lisdexamfetamine, contact your doctor or local NHS services (details at end of leaflet). Have the medicine or packaging with you if you telephone for advice.

Are there any possible side-effects?

We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they cause effects that we don't want (side-effects).

Side effects you must do something about

If your child has an irregular or fast heart beat (they may say their heart feels fluttery or is racing), contact your doctor straight away.

Other side-effects you need to know about

- Your child may become irritable, aggressive, tearful, depressed or anxious. These effects will stop if lisdexamfetamine is stopped. If you are worried, contact your doctor but continue to give lisdexamfetamine in the mean time.
- Your child may get indigestion, stomach ache, feel sick (nausea) or be sick (vomit). Giving the medicine with some food or milk may help.
- They may get constipation (difficulty doing a poo) or diarrhoea.
- Your child may get headaches, feel more tired than usual or feel sleepy.
- They may have problems sleeping. This can be helped by taking lisdexamphetamine at least 6 hours before bedtime.
- Your child might feel dizzy or light headed, especially when standing up. Encourage them to stand up slowly, and to sit or lie down if they feel dizzy or light headed.
- If your child is prone to tics (sudden muscle twitches of the face or body), lisdexamfetamine may make these worse.
- Your child may have a dry mouth. Eating citrus fruits (e.g. oranges but not grapefruit) and sipping water may help.

- Your child's eyesight may be blurred (fuzzy).
- They may get a rash or swollen, reddened, itchy skin. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if this becomes troublesome.
- Your child may lose some weight during the first few months of treatment. Contact your doctor if you are concerned.

Your child may sometimes get other side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, contact your doctor. You can report any suspected side-effects to the a UK safety scheme at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard

Can other medicines be given at the same time as lisdexamfetamine ?

- You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless your doctor has told you not to.
- Lisdexamfetamine should not be taken with some medicines that you get on prescription. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any other medicines your child is taking **before** giving lisdexamfetamine.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist **before** giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal and complementary medicines.

Is there anything else I need to know about this medicine?

⚠ Do not stop giving lisdexamfetamine suddenly, as this may affect your child's blood pressure. If you or your child wants to stop this medicine, discuss this with your doctor. They will explain how to reduce the dose bit by bit. Do not reduce the dose without discussing this with your doctor.

⚠ Your child should not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice as this may increase the amount of lisdexfetamine in the body, which could be harmful.

- It is important to measure your child's height, weight, pulse rate and blood pressure regularly whilst they are taking lisdexamfetamine. Your doctor will tell you how often.
- Lisdexamfetamine may harm an unborn baby. If your daughter is sexually active, it is important that she uses contraception to prevent pregnancy and continues to use contraception for at least 1 month after stopping lisdexamfetamine.
- The oral contraceptive pill can be used safely in women or girls taking lisdexamfetamine.
- If your daughter thinks she may be pregnant, she should see her doctor as soon as possible but continue taking lisdexamfetamine in the meantime.

General advice about medicines

- Try to give medicines at about the same times each day, to help you remember.
- If you are not sure a medicine is working, contact your doctor but continue to give the medicine as usual in the meantime. Do not give extra doses, as you may do harm.
- Only give this medicine to *your* child. Never give it to anyone else, even if their condition appears to be the same, as this could do harm.
- If you think someone else may have taken the medicine by accident, contact your doctor for advice.
- Make sure that you always have enough medicine. Order a new prescription at least 2 weeks before you will run out.
- Make sure that the medicines you have at home have not reached the 'best before' or 'use by' date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of.

Where should I keep this medicine?

- Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge.
- Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.
- Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Who to contact for more information

Your child's doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about lisdexamfetamine and about other and aboutedicines used to treat ADHD.

You can also get useful information from:

England: NHS 111
Tel 111
www.nhs.uk

Scotland: NHS 24
Tel 111
www.nhs24.com

Wales: NHS Direct
Tel 0845 4647 (2p per min) or 111
www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk

Northern Ireland: NI Direct
www.nidirect.gov.uk

ADDISS (ADHD Information Services)
020 8952 2800
www.addiss.co.uk

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The primary information source for this leaflet is the British National Formulary for Children. Details on other sources used can be found on www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk.
We take great care to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct and up to date. However, medicines can be used in different ways for different patients. It is important that you ask the advice of your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about something. This leaflet is about the use of these medicines in the UK, and may not apply to other countries. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group, WellChild and the contributors and editors cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of information, omissions of information, or any actions that may be taken as a consequence of reading this leaflet.