

# ISOTRETINOIN



**This leaflet should be used in conjunction with the complete consumer medicine information (CMI) which is available from any pharmacy.**

This leaflet contains information about Isotretinoin including details of known side effects. It does not include every possible side effect.

The type and severity of side effects experienced differs for each child. Some side effects are minor and easily treated at home. However, others may be more serious and require prompt medical assessment. Side effects from treatment are routinely monitored with blood tests and clinical examination. If you have any questions about side effects during treatment, please speak to your doctor. Also, if your child experiences any problems or side effects during treatment, please contact your doctor, clinical nurse consultant/coordinator or pharmacy staff for advice.

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## OTHER NAMES

- Roaccutane®
- Apo-Isotretinoin®

## PRESENTATION

- 10mg and 20mg capsules

## ADMINISTRATION

- Oral

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## SIDE EFFECTS *Continued overleaf*

### Common

(The following usually **do not require** medical attention)

- Dry lips, mouth and nose. Vaseline can be used to soften the lips and lining of the nose.
- Eye irritation or soreness. Wearing of contact lenses may cause discomfort. Lubricant eye drops can be used to relieve dryness.
- Dryness, itching or peeling of the skin and increased risk of sunburn. Daily use of a moisturising sunscreen is recommended.

### Less common

(The following usually **do not require** medical attention)

- Thinning of the hair
- Fatigue
- Joint and muscle stiffness
- Nausea
- Abdominal pain

## SIDE EFFECTS (CONT.)

### Rare

(Please seek medical attention **immediately** if any of the following occur)

- Allergic reactions which may be life-threatening. Symptoms of a severe reaction may include skin rash or hives, swelling or tingling of the lips and face, difficulty breathing and low blood pressure which may lead to collapse. Seek medical attention **immediately** if any of the above symptoms occur.
- Sudden, severe and/or persistent headache which may be associated with vomiting and/or visual disturbances.
- Sudden increase in white blood cell count. Symptoms may include low blood pressure, fever and difficulty breathing.
- Severe abdominal pain, severe diarrhoea or bleeding from the rectum

## OTHER POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

### Less common

- High levels of liver enzymes, sugar or fats in the blood

### Rare

- Depression or mood changes
- Vision problems
- Cataracts

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Should ideally be taken with food or milk.
- If taken during pregnancy, isotretinoin causes severe birth defects. ALL females of child-bearing age must take the oral contraceptive pill during isotretinoin therapy and for a minimum of one month following completion of therapy.
- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember if it is the same day. If it is almost time for your next dose when you remember, take the dose due and take the next dose as you normally should. Do not take a double dose. Speak to your doctor or pharmacist for more information.
- Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight, wear sun-protective clothing, and use a high SPF sunscreen.
- Keep ALL medication out of the reach of children.

## CONTACT

For further information, or to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's medication, please feel free to contact the Children's Cancer Centre of your child's treating hospital:

- The Royal Children's Hospital Oncology Pharmacy (03) 9345 6290
- Monash Children's Hospital Cancer Centre (03) 8572 3456 or Pharmacist desk (03) 8572 3464

Disclaimer: This information has been prepared by the Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service, with input from the Children's Cancer Centre Pharmacy Departments at The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital. This information is for educational purposes only and should not be seen as a substitute for advice from your doctor or other professional healthcare provider. If you have specific questions about the content of this information, or any other medical matter, it is recommended that you consult your doctor, pharmacist or other professional healthcare provider. This information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, however changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information.

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