

Dexamethasone Ophthalmic Suspension, USP 0.1% (Maxidex®)

About This Drug

Dexamethasone ophthalmic suspension/ointment is a steroid used to treat eye inflammation and other conditions. It is also used to prevent inflammation with certain chemotherapy. It is given in the eyes as drops or an ointment.

Possible Side Effects

- Eye discomfort, redness and/or irritation
- Inflammation (swelling) of the eye
- Dry and/or itchy eye
- Blurred vision
- Sensitivity to light (photosensitivity). Photosensitivity means that you may become more sensitive to the sun and/or light. Your eyes may water more, mostly in bright light.
- Increased tears
- Crusting of the eyelid

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 1% or greater of patients treated with dexamethasone ophthalmic suspension. Not all possible side effects are included above.

Warnings and Precautions

- Increased risk of viral, bacterial and fungal infection of the eye.
- Dexamethasone ophthalmic suspension may cause slow wound healing of the eye. Using this drug at the same time as a topical (ointment) nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) may also cause slow wound healing of the eye.
- This drug may impair your ability to drive or use machinery. Use caution and tell your nurse or doctor if you have blurry vision.
- Long term use of this drug, or if you have diabetes may cause increased pressure of the eye and/or glaucoma and cause damage to the optic nerve, impair vision and cause clouding of the lens in your eye (cataracts).
- If you have a disease causing thinning of the cornea or sclera, you may be at an increased risk of developing small tears (perforation) of the eye.

Important Information

- It is recommended to avoid wearing contact lenses during treatment with dexamethasone ophthalmic suspension. The preservative may cause eye irritation and discolor soft contact lenses. If your doctor has allowed you to wear your contacts, you must remove your lenses before applying the suspension and wait at least 15 minutes before re-insertion.

How to Take Your Medication

- **Dexamethasone ophthalmic suspension:** Apply drop/s to your eye by pulling your lower eyelid down while bending your head backward. Follow your prescription for frequency. Do not touch tip of dropper as it may contaminate your medication.
- **Dexamethasone ophthalmic ointment:** Apply a thin amount of the ointment to your eye by pulling your lower eyelid down. Follow your prescription for frequency. Do not touch the tip of the dropper as it may contaminate your medication.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, do not take the missed dose at all and do not double up on the next dose. Instead, continue with your regular dosing schedule and contact your physician.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands after handling your medicine, your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Discuss with your nurse or your doctor how to dispose of unused medicine.

Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of dexamethasone ophthalmic suspension with food.
- There are known interactions of dexamethasone ophthalmic suspension with other medicines and products like topical (ointment) nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
- This drug may interact with other medicines. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs and others) that you are taking at this time.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Blurred vision or other changes in eyesight
- Sensitivity to light
- If you think you may be pregnant

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** It is not known if this drug may harm an unborn child. For this reason, be sure to talk with your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant while receiving this drug. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.

- **Breast feeding warning:** It is not known if this drug passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should talk to their doctor about the risks and benefits of breastfeeding during treatment with this drug because this drug may enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby
- **Fertility warning:** Human fertility studies have not been done with this drug.

Last reviewed May 2019