

What is an anticholinergic?

Anticholinergic (antispasmodic) drugs include medications that treat medical conditions such as overactive bladder.

They help to relax the muscle that surrounds the bladder and lessen the urge and frequency of urination. Anticholinergics are helpful for treating bladder over-activity, day and night time wetting. The most common anticholinergics that we use are:

- Oxybutynin (Ditropan)
- Detrol
- Mirabegron (antispasmodic)

Before giving this medication to my child, I should tell my Urologist about:

- Any allergies or reactions to anticholinergic medication
- Difficulty with emptying the bladder
- Constipation
- Previous bowel surgery
- Any previous acid reflux or heartburn

What are the possible side effects?

Your child may have some of these side effects while taking an anticholinergic medication. Check with your child's Urologist if these side effects do not go away or if they bother your child:

- Dry eyes, mouth or nose
- Drowsiness
- Trouble having a bowel movement
- Decreased sweating
- Heartburn or acid reflux

Stop the medication and see a doctor if your child has:

- An allergic reaction: itching, hives, swelling, chest tightness, trouble breathing
- Change in heartbeat
- Trouble seeing or blurred vision
- Not been able to pass urine

These side effects are not common and may be signs of a serious problem.

How should I give this medication to my child?

- Give your child the medication at the same prescribed time(s) every day.
- If you miss a dose, give your child the dose as soon as you remember. Do not give two doses together, to make up for the missed one.
- It can be taken with food or without.
- Some anticholinergic medications may also be available in liquid form.

How long will my child be taking this medication?

Anticholinergic medication can take up to a few weeks to start working. The Urologist will likely prescribe the medication for 3-6 months to start. The Urology Clinic will ask you for a follow-up appointment to evaluate how the medication has been working.