

Sildenafil



The Heart Centre

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4
604-875-2120 • 1-888-300-3088
Emergency call: 604-875-2161
(ask for Cardiologist on call)

www.bcchildrens.ca

What is Sildenafil (Revatio, Apo-sildenafil)?

Sildenafil (sil-DEN-a-fil) is a medication that may be used to lower the blood pressure in the blood vessels carrying blood to the lungs. The most common use is pulmonary hypertension.

Sildenafil comes in tablet and liquid (suspension) form.

How do I give this medicine?

- ▶ Shake well if liquid form
- ▶ Give ___ mL or ___ tablet(s)(= _____mg) _____ times a day by mouth/NG or GT
- ▶ Take on an empty stomach

How is this medication stored?

- ▶ Store liquid in fridge
- ▶ Keep tablets and liquid at room temperature away from sunlight
- ▶ Keep tablets away from moist or damp places
- ▶ Keep medication out of the reach of small children

What should I do if a dose is missed?

- ▶ **Ask your pharmacist if you should give a missed dose.** You may be able to give the missed dose as soon as you remember. But if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the missed dose - give the next dose at the normal time.
- ▶ Do **not** double up the dose.
- ▶ If your child vomits within 30 minutes after a dose - give a new dose. If longer than 30 minutes then wait until next normal medication time.

Possible common side effects:

- Headache
- Flushing
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Dizziness or lightheaded due to low blood pressure

Call cardiologist, cardiology clinic or seek care if your child has any of the following:

- ▶ Skin rash
- ▶ Changes in vision such as visual clour changes, blurred vision or pain on exposure to light
- ▶ Nose bleeds that last longer than 30 minutes
- ▶ Any new symptoms that seem different from your usual heart symptoms

Other notes or special instructions:

- If the child has taken or been given an extra dose and you are worried call Healthlink BC at 811
- If your child accidentally has taken or been given an overdose call:



BC Drug and Poison Centre:
1-800-567-8911 • 604 -682-5050

- ▶ Your doctor may start at a lower dose and slowly go up to maximum dose. Full effect may take several months.
- ▶ This medication can lower blood pressure. Ask your child to get out of bed or stand up slowly.
- ▶ Don't give with grapefruit juice. This can lead to a greater effect of sildenafil.
- ▶ Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medications, over the counter medications (as well as other heart medications, antibiotics) or herbals.
- ▶ Your doctor may order routine bloodwork or eye examinations while on sildenafil for a longer time.
- ▶ Sildenafil liquid must be made by a specialized pharmacy. Make sure your pharmacy is able to make sildenafil for your child.
- ▶ Check the expiry date of the liquid.