

BACLOFEN



Baclofen (also called Gablofen or Lioresal) is a skeletal muscle relaxant often used to treat increased muscle tone (hypertonia) and spasticity that can be seen in children with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, motor neuron disease, or spinal cord damage. It can be given by mouth or through a surgically implanted pump that delivers the medicine intrathecally (directly to the spine).

Baclofen does not cure these problems, but can help reduce the severity of the condition. It relaxes muscles in the body that are stiff and tight, and can help improve flexibility and decrease cramping and discomfort caused by tight muscles.

- **Common side effects:** sleepiness, constipation, nausea, weakness, dizziness, blurred vision or altered urination (urinating more often, losing bladder control, or difficulty urinating). In some children with epilepsy it can cause an increase in seizures. Call your physician if these side effects are persistent or disruptive to your child.
- **Signs of an allergic reaction:** a rash that is itchy, red, and swollen, or a rash with blistering and peeling. Tightness in the chest or throat, trouble with breathing or talking. Unusual hoarseness or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue or throat. Call your physician immediately if you suspect a rash from the medicine. Call 9-1-1 or take your child to the emergency room immediately if they are having any difficulty breathing.
- **Severe side effects:** extreme weakness, difficulty breathing, persistent vomiting, chest pain, bloody or dark urine. Call your physician immediately or take your child to the emergency room if you suspect a severe side effect from the medicine.

- **Precautions:** This medication is started slowly to avoid side effects. It is important to take it regularly. If it is stopped too quickly withdrawal symptoms may be seen, including a return of increased muscle tone and spasticity, fever, itchiness, and irritability. If these problems occur contact your provider.
- **Drug Interactions:** Use with caution with other medications that suppress the central nervous system including alcohol, prescription pain medications, or other muscle relaxants and sedatives. Ask your physician if you have any questions about potential medication interactions.

Please be aware that all drugs may cause side effects. Many people have no side effects or only minor side effects. Notify your provider if any of these side effects bother you or do not go away. **If severe side effects occur or you suspect symptoms of an allergic reaction call your provider right away or seek emergency medical attention.**

Please speak with your pharmacist for complete drug information.

References:

- <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/meds/a682530.html>
- <http://cerebralpalsy.org/about-cerebral-palsy/treatment/medication-and-drug-therapy/>
- <http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/spasticity/spasticity.htm>

