

DANTROLENE



Dantrolene (also called Dantrium or Revonto) 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 is given orally (by mouth).

Dantrolene 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.

- **Dosage forms:** Oral capsules come in 25mg, 50mg and 100mg.
- **Common side effects:** sleepiness, nausea, diarrhea, weakness, dizziness, altered urination (urinating more often, losing bladder control, or difficulty urinating) and altered liver function. In some children with epilepsy it can cause breakthrough seizures or an increase in seizures.
- **Signs of an allergic reaction:** a rash that is itchy, red, and swollen. It may be blistered 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 if you think that your child is having a rash or allergic reaction because of the medicine. Seek emergency medical attention immediately if your child is having any difficulty breathing.

- **Severe side effects:** severe dizziness, not being able to eat, feeling very tired or weak, dark urine or yellowing of the skin or white parts of the eyes. Call your physician immediately if you are concerned for any of these side effects.
- **Precautions:** make your provider aware of any severe heart, lung, or liver conditions. Blood work must be done on a regular basis to monitor liver function.
- **Drug interactions:** avoid use with medications that affect the heart such as calcium channel blockers. 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 or pharmacist if you are concerned 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 on this medicine. Notify your provider if any of these side effects bother you or do not go away. If severe side effects or symptoms of an allergic reaction occur call your provider right away or seek emergency medical attention.

References:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/meds/a682576.html> <http://cerebralpalsy.org/about-cerebral-palsy/treatment/medication-and-drug-therapy/> <http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/spasticity/spasticity.htm>

