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2. Pitocin

Pitocin

Generic name: [oxytocin](#) [OX-i-TOE-sin]**Drug class:** [Uterotonic agents](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Jul 31, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is Pitocin?

Pitocin is a hormone that is used to induce labor or strengthen uterine contractions, or to control bleeding after childbirth.

Pitocin is also used to stimulate uterine contractions in a woman with an incomplete or threatened miscarriage.

Pitocin may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Pitocin side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Pitocin may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- a fast, slow, or uneven heart rate;
- excessive bleeding long after childbirth;
- severe [headache](#), blurred vision, pounding in your neck or ears; or
- confusion, severe weakness, feeling unsteady.

Pitocin may cause serious or life-threatening side effects in the newborn baby, including:

- slow heartbeats or other abnormal heart rate;
- [jaundice](#) (a yellow appearance of the baby's skin);
- a seizure;
- eye problems; or
- problems with breathing, muscle tone, and other signs of health problems.

Talk with your doctor about the risks of using Pitocin. **In most cases, the benefits of inducing labor with this medicine will outweigh the risks to the baby.**

Common side effects of Pitocin may include:

- [nausea, vomiting](#); or
- more intense or more frequent contractions (this is an expected effect of Pitocin).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Pitocin side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

Use only as directed. Tell your doctor if you use other medicines or have other medical conditions or allergies.

Before taking this medicine

You should not be treated with Pitocin if you are allergic to it.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- a severe [infection](#) in your uterus;
- a difficult labor because you have a small pelvis;
- genital herpes;
- [cervical cancer](#);
- [surgery](#) on your cervix or uterus (including a prior C-section);
- [high blood pressure](#); or
- heart problems.

Ask a doctor if it is safe to breastfeed while using Pitocin.

How is Pitocin given?

Pitocin is injected into a muscle, or given as an infusion into a vein. A healthcare provider will give you this injection.

Your contractions and other vital signs will be watched closely while you are receiving Pitocin. This will help your doctor determine how long to treat you with this medicine.

During labor, your baby's heart rate will also be watched with a fetal heart monitor to evaluate any effects of [oxytocin](#) on the baby.

 [Detailed Pitocin dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Pitocin is used when needed and does not have a daily dose. Call your doctor if the medicine is not effective.

What happens if I overdose?

Since Pitocin is given by a healthcare professional in a medical setting, you will be constantly monitored to make sure you are receiving the correct dose.

What should I avoid while receiving Pitocin?

Follow your doctor's instructions about any restrictions on food, beverages, or activity.

What other drugs will affect Pitocin?

Other drugs may affect Pitocin, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use.

 [Pitocin drug interactions](#) (more detail)

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Pitocin

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Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation


 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug



Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



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3.2 / 10

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