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Salagen

Generic name: [pilocarpine](#) (oral) [*PYE-loe-KAR-peen*]**Drug class:** [Cholinergic agonists](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Jun 6, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is Salagen?

Salagen affects the nervous system and increases saliva secretion in the mouth.

Salagen is used to treat [dry mouth](#) caused by [Sjogren's syndrome](#), or by radiation to treat [head and neck cancer](#).

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

Salagen side effects

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

Salagen may cause serious side effects. Stop using Salagen and call your doctor at once if you have:

- [shortness of breath](#);
- fast or [slow heart rate](#);
- severe [headache](#), pounding in your neck or ears;
- confusion, tremors; or
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out.

Common side effects of Salagen may include:

- increased [sweating](#), urinating more than usual;
- chills, or flushing (warmth, redness, or tingly feeling);
- headache, dizziness, weakness;
- nausea, [vomiting](#), [diarrhea](#);
- blurred vision, watery eyes; or
- runny nose.

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.

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

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Warnings

You should not use Salagen if you have narrow-angle [glaucoma](#), or asthma that is untreated or uncontrolled.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Salagen if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- untreated or uncontrolled asthma; or
- narrow-angle glaucoma.

To make sure Salagen is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- asthma, [chronic bronchitis](#), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or other breathing disorder;
- glaucoma or vision problems;
- [liver disease](#);
- kidney disease;
- [heart disease](#);
- gallbladder problems;
- mental illness;
- if you take heart or blood pressure medicine; or
- if you use a bronchodilator to treat a breathing disorder.

FDA [pregnancy category](#) C. It is not known whether Salagen will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while using Salagen.

It is not known whether [pilocarpine](#) passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. You should not breast-feed while using this medicine.

How should I take Salagen?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

You may take Salagen with or without food.

Drink plenty of liquids while you are taking Salagen. This medicine can cause increased sweating and you may get dehydrated easily.

Use Salagen regularly to get the most benefit. Get your prescription refilled before you run out of medicine completely.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Salagen dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose.

Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose of Salagen can be fatal at very high doses.**

What should I avoid while taking pilocarpine?

Salagen may cause blurred vision, especially at night or in low light. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be able to see clearly.

Avoid becoming overheated during exercise and in hot weather. Salagen can increase sweating and you may be more prone to [dehydration](#).

What other drugs will affect Salagen?

Other drugs may interact with pilocarpine, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use now and any medicine you start or stop using.

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

Does Salagen interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Salagen

+

Enter a drug name

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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.

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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