

Lugol's Solution

We often prescribe Lugol's solution to decrease the risk of thyroid storm in patients who will have surgery to remove the thyroid. This solution could cause chemical burn when it is not used correctly.

What is Lugol's solution?

It is a liquid that contains an iodine and potassium iodide concentrate.

How do I take it?

Make sure you follow the directions on the label. **Always mix** Lugol's solution with 8 ounces (1 cup) of water or juice. **Never** use it directly in the mouth.

The dose depends on what it is used for. The normal dose for thyroid surgery is 8 drops, 3 times daily.

What are the side effects?

Many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects when used properly.

If you have any of these symptoms, call your doctor right away:

- Signs of allergic reaction (rash, hives, or itching)
- Diarrhea
- Trouble breathing, swallowing or talking
- Very bad upset stomach
- Vomiting

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Take a missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your normal time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.

How should I store it?

Store it at room temperature and protect from light.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 5/2020 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#8143.