

Indications:

Dupixent is used to treat adults and adolescents 12 years and older with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis, also known as atopic eczema. Dupixent may be used with eczema medicines that you apply to the skin or it may be used on its own. Using Dupixent for atopic dermatitis (atopic eczema) can improve the condition of your skin and reduce itching. Dupixent has also been shown to improve symptoms of pain, anxiety, and depression associated with atopic dermatitis. In addition, Dupixent helps improve your sleep disturbance and overall quality of life. Dupixent is also used with other asthma medicines for the maintenance treatment of severe asthma in adults and adolescents (12 years of age and older) whose asthma is not controlled with their current asthma medicines. Dupixent helps prevent severe asthma attacks (exacerbations) and can improve your breathing. Dupixent may also help reduce the amount of another group of medicines you need to control your asthma, called oral corticosteroids, while preventing severe asthma attacks and improving your breathing

Dosage and administration:

Your doctor will decide how much Dupixent you need and for how long. Dupixent is given by injection

Recommended dose in adults with atopic dermatitis: In atopic dermatitis, the recommended first dose is 600 mg (two 300 mg injections), followed by 300 mg given every two weeks by subcutaneous injection

The recommended dose of Dupixent for adolescents: (12 to 17 years of age) with atopic dermatitis is based on body weight less than 60 kg, initial dose: 400 mg (two 200 mg injections), Subsequent Doses (every other week): 200 mg 60 kg or more, initial dose: 600 mg (two 300 mg injections), Subsequent Doses (every other week): 300mg

Recommended dose in adult and adolescent patients with asthma

For asthma, the recommended dose of Dupixent for adult and adolescents patients (12 years of age and older) is:

- For patients with severe asthma and who are on oral corticosteroids or for patients with severe asthma and co-morbid moderate to-severe atopic dermatitis, an initial dose of 600 mg (two 300 mg injections), followed by 300 mg every other week administered as subcutaneous injection.
- For all other patients, an initial dose of 400 mg (two 200 mg injections), followed by 200 mg every other week administered as subcutaneous injection.

Dupixent is given by injection under your skin (subcutaneous injection). You and your doctor or nurse should decide if you should inject Dupixent yourself.

Warning and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before using Dupixent: Dupixent is not a rescue medicine and should not be used to treat a sudden asthma attack

Allergic reactions: Very rarely, Dupixent can cause serious side effects, including allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions and anaphylactic reaction. You must look out for signs of these conditions (i.e. breathing problems, swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue, fainting, dizziness, feeling lightheaded (low blood pressure), fever, general ill feeling, swollen lymph nodes, hives, itching, joint pain, skin rash)

Eosinophilic conditions: Rarely patients taking an asthma medicine may develop inflammation of blood vessels or lungs due to an increase of certain white blood cells (eosinophilia). It is not known whether this is caused by Dupixent. This usually, but not always, happens in people who also take a steroid medicine which, is being stopped or for which the dose is being lowered. Tell your doctor immediately if you develop a combination of symptoms such as a flu-like illness, pins and needles or numbness of arms or legs, worsening of pulmonary symptoms, and/or rash

Parasitic (intestinal parasites) infection: Dupixent may weaken your resistance to infections caused by parasites. If you already have a parasitic infection it should be treated before you start treatment with Dupixent. Check with your doctor if you have diarrhea, gas, upset stomach, greasy stools, and dehydration which could be a sign of a parasitic infection. If you live in a region where these infections are common or if you are travelling to such a region check with your doctor

Asthma: If you have asthma and are taking asthma medicines, do not change or stop your asthma medicine without talking to your doctor

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before using this medicine. The effects of this medicine in pregnant women are not known; therefore it is preferable to avoid the use of Dupixent in pregnancy unless your doctor advises to use it. If you are breast-feeding or are planning to breast-feed, talk to your doctor before using this medicine. You and your doctor should decide if you will breastfeed or use Dupixent. You should not do both.

Driving and using machines

Dupixent is unlikely to influence your ability to drive and use machines

Possible side effects

Dupixent can cause serious side effects, including very rare allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions, including anaphylactic reaction;

the signs of allergic reaction or anaphylactic reaction may include:

- breathing problems
- swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue
- fainting, dizziness, feeling lightheaded (low blood pressure)
- fever
- general ill feeling
- swollen lymph nodes
- hive
- itching
- joint pain
- skin rash

If you develop an allergic reaction, stop using Dupixent and talk to your doctor

Other side effects

Very Common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people) atopic dermatitis and asthma:

- injection site reactions (i.e. redness, swelling, and itching)

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) atopic dermatitis only: Headache, eye dryness, redness and itching eyelid itching, redness and swelling

1. Always read the full prescribing information.
2. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions to the Egyptian Pharmacovigilance Center (EPVC)
3. Egyptian drug authority. Dupixent. 200/300 mg pre-filled syringe leaflet; approval date: 6/1/2021.