

What is spasticity?

Spasticity is muscle stiffness. This can happen:

- When nerve signals from the spinal cord or brain do not go to the muscles in the right way.
- In children with cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, brain injury and other medical problems.

What is baclofen (Lioresal)?

Baclofen is a medicine used for spasticity. It helps tight muscles to relax. Your child may get this medicine as a pill or intrathecally.

- Most often, the doctor will prescribe the pill first.
- If the pill does not relieve muscle spasms, the doctor may advise for intrathecal baclofen. This means it will go directly into the spinal fluid that surrounds the spinal cord. Giving it this way:
 - Provides a constant amount of medicine to your child.
 - Often helps the medicine work better with fewer side effects, such as less stomach upset, nausea and sleepiness.

How can baclofen help my child?

Though baclofen will not cure your child's problem, it can help to improve their quality of life and some of the problems caused by spasticity.

Changes you may see in your child include:

- Better range of motion, flexibility and movement.
- Fewer muscle spasms.
- Better pain control.
- Ease of care with activities of daily living.

Talk with your child's doctor or pharmacy if you have questions.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.