

---

## Department of Neurosciences

# Ethosuximide drug information

Ethosuximide is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy. It is available in the form of a capsule containing 250mg and a syrup containing 250mg in every measure of 5ml.

### Drug brand names

- Ethosuximide
- Emeside

### Uses

Ethosuximide is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy. It is indicated for use in absence seizures (petit mal).

### Side effects

- Some patients may experience weight loss, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Other problems in this area include abdominal discomfort and hiccups.
- Some people experience drowsiness, unsteadiness when walking, intolerance to light, headache and sleep disorders.
- Depression, mild euphoria and general mood and behavioural changes occur occasionally.
- Rash.
- Medically serious side effects are rare and they include blood disorders. Blood tests will be performed where appropriate.

If you experience any of these side effects, please contact the epilepsy nurse (contact details are at the end of the leaflet) or your GP.

### Contraception

It is not clear whether Ethosuximide affects the contraceptive pill. It is therefore advisable to take extra precautions by using barrier methods such as condoms.

### Pregnancy

There is a chance that Ethosuximide can affect a baby so please inform your specialist before you conceive so that the your medication can be reviewed. We recommend you take folic acid 5mg daily from at least eight weeks prior to conception until at least 13 weeks of pregnancy.

## Drug Interactions

When taken with Phonation, Ethosuximide may raise the amount of Phenytoin in the blood. This could trigger side effects such as sedation, lethargy, slowing of movement, confusion or even worsening of seizures.

A drug called Valproate may increase Ethosuximide in the blood triggering side effects such as the ones noted above.

## Other Useful information

- Please take your medication as prescribed.
- The medication crosses the placenta barrier and can also be found in breast milk.
- Keep a record of your seizures when you start any new medication. This will help determine future drug dosages.
- Do not stop taking medication suddenly and without instructions from your specialist.
- Inform your specialist about any other medication you may be taking.

## Warning

Please inform your doctor or epilepsy nurse straight away if you develop the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Mouth ulcers
- Bruising or bleeding

## Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Epilepsy Nurse Specialist on 01223 217992.

**The information on this leaflet is not exhaustive. Please refer to the patient information leaflet prepared by the manufacturer of your drug which can be found in the medicine packaging.**



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. You cannot smoke on site. For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free, 0800 169 0 169

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

Informacje te można otrzymać w innych językach, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio. Zamówienia prosimy składać pod numerem: 01223 216032 lub wysyłając e-mail: [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

## Polish

Se precisar desta informação num outro idioma, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio por favor telefone para o 01223 216032 ou envie uma mensagem para: [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

## Portuguese

Если вам требуется эта информация на другом языке, крупным шрифтом или в аудиоформате, пожалуйста, обращайтесь по телефону 01223 216032 или на вебсайт [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

## Russian

若你需要此信息的其他語言版本、大字體版或音頻格式，請致電 01223 216032 或發郵件到: [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

## Cantonese

Bu bilgiyi diger dillerde veya büyük baskılı ya da sesli formatta isterseniz lütfen su numaradan kontak kurun: 01223 216032 veya asagidaki adrese e-posta gönderin: [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

## Turkish

এই তথ্য বাংলায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও টেপে পেতে চাইলে দয়া করে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করুন বা [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk) ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করুন।

## Bengali

### Document history

Authors	Erica Chisanga and Mark Manford
Department	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ <a href="http://www.addenbrookes.org.uk">www.addenbrookes.org.uk</a>
Contact number	01223 217992
Published	January 2008
Review date	January 2010
File name	Ethosuxamide.doc
Version number	1
Ref	PIN1696