

Department of Neurosciences

Topiramate drug information

Drug brand names

- Topiramate
- Topamax

Uses

Topiramate is a strong antiepileptic drug used to reduce seizure frequency or severity in people who have epilepsy in cases where other antiepileptic medications have failed. It is available in form of 25mg, 50mg, 100mg and 200mg tablets. Capsules containing a powder form of the drug for sprinkling on food or drink are also available. Topiramate is also used to treat Migraine.

Side effects

Dose-related side effects become more likely the higher the dose of medication and improve if the dose is reduced again. They sometimes occur temporarily when the medication is started or as the dose is increased. If you are also taking other anti-epileptic medication, sometimes reducing them, rather than Topiramate may alleviate these side effects. Usually they settle within eight weeks of starting medication. Please consult your doctor or epilepsy specialist nurse for advice.

Common side effects are:

- Sleepiness
- Dizziness
- Double vision
- Tingling
- Cramps
- Mood change and confusion, which may occasionally be severe.
- Topiramate may trigger development of kidney stones. You should not take it if you have a history of stones.
- Topiramate may cause weight loss. This is dose related and happens to those who are overweight.
- Some patients experience difficulty with finding words.
- Topiramate can reduce sweating so if you are exercising or in a hot environment, ensure that you drink plenty of fluids.
- Very rarely medical help is needed if body temperature rises.

In the event of any of these side effects, contact the epilepsy nurse (contact details are at the end of the leaflet), or your GP.

Contraception

At doses above 200mg daily Topiramate reduces the amount of the oral contraceptive pill in your body so that a higher dose pill is required. Even then, contraception may be slightly less effective, especially if there is breakthrough bleeding between periods. You should also consider additional barrier methods such as condoms until this problem is corrected. Topiramate does not affect the three month contraceptive injection or the hormone coil (mirena).

Pregnancy

If you are taking any anti-epileptic drug, you should ask to see your specialist and discuss the best preparations and doses before you conceive. Once you are already pregnant it is too late to make these changes. The risks to your baby from Topiramate are unknown but it has caused some problems in animal studies. The relevance to humans is unclear. 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

Ordinary medications such as paracetamol and aspirin can be given with Topiramate. For any other drugs recommended, always remind your doctor or pharmacist about this medication, although problems are unlikely.

Other useful information

- You should not take Topiramate if you have a history of acute glaucoma.
- You can take Topiramate at the same time as you take other medication.
- Keep a record of your seizures when you start any new medication. This will help to determine future drug dosages.
- Store Topiramate below 30 degrees and in the packaging that it comes in.
- Do not stop taking your medication suddenly and without consultation with your doctor.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember but do not take two doses at the same time or within six hours of each other.

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

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

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

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

Russian

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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

Turkish

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

Bengali

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