

Department of Neurology

Zonisamide drug information

Zonisamide has antiepileptic effects. It is licensed for use in combination with another antiepileptic drug. It is given in the form of a capsule. The capsules have various strengths; 25mg (white), 50mg (white/grey) and 100mg (white/red).

Drug brand names

- Zonisamide
- Zonegran

Uses

Zonisamide is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy of focal onset.

Side effects

- Occasionally patients will experience an allergic rash, a little like sunburn or milder skin irritation. Usually this means the tablet has to be stopped. You should consult your doctor or epilepsy specialist nurse (number at the bottom of the leaflet).
- 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. Common side effects are sleepiness, poor concentration, mild unsteadiness of walking and double vision. They often settle after a few weeks on medication. Less common side effects include changes in mood or difficulty with speech.
- Zonisamide may occasionally cause kidney stones. You should not take Zonisamide if you have a history of kidney stones.
- Medically serious side effects are very rare but may affect the blood, liver or pancreas.
- Zonisamide may reduce sweating, so if you are exercising or in a hot environment, ensure that you take 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

Zonisamide is not known to affect the oral contraceptive pill.

Pregnancy

If you are taking any anti-epileptic drugs, you should ask to see your specialist and discuss the best preparations and doses before you conceive, in order to reduce the risk of malformations to your baby. Once you are already pregnant it is too late to make these changes. The risks to your baby from Zonisamide are unknown. 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 Zonisamide. The amount of Zonisamide in your body can be influenced by other anti-epileptic drugs such as Phenytoin, Carbamazepine and Phenobarbital. For any other drugs recommended or prescribed, always remind your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking Zonisamide.

Other useful information

- Try to take the medicine at the same time every day.
- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at once.
- Do not stop taking Zonisamide unless your doctor tells you. Stopping Zonisamide suddenly can trigger withdrawal seizures. Make sure you do not run out and only stop taking it under supervision.
- Keep Zonisamide below 25 degrees and in the packaging that it comes in.
- Keep a record of your seizures when you start any new medication. This will help determine future drug dosages.

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.



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Arabic

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال بمعلومات المريض على الرقم: 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese

如您需以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasinlar: 01223 216032 veya patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کرنے کی درخواست کریں: 01223 216032 یا patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পেতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

Document history

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