
Department of Neurosciences

Lamotrigine drug information

Lamotrigine is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy. It has been used in the treatment of epilepsy in the UK for over 15 years. It is available in tablet form only. The various strengths of the tablets include 25mg, 50 mg, 100mg and 200mg. The dose given is built up gradually to avoid allergic reactions.

Drug brand names

- Lamotrigine
- Lamictal

Uses

Lamotrigine is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy. It is also used for neuropathic pain and manic depression.

Side effects

- About one in fifty 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 stop the medication and contact your GP immediately if you experience an allergic rash.
- The more common side effects of Lamotrigine are sleepiness, headache, insomnia and dizziness. Dose-related side effects are more likely with higher doses of the medication and will improve if the dose is reduced again. Side-effects sometimes occur when the medication is started or as the dose is increased but these are often temporary.
- Medically serious side effects are very rare but may affect the blood or the liver. Blood tests will be performed where appropriate.

If you have any concerns about side-effects, please do contact your GP or the epilepsy nurse on the number at the bottom of the leaflet.

Contraception

Lamotrigine may slightly reduce the effectiveness of progesterone only oral contraceptive pill so you may need to change the type of pill to protect you from pregnancy. Your doctor will advise you if this is the case. Lamotrigine does not affect the three month contraceptive injection in the same way. The contraceptive pill may reduce the strength of Lamotrigine and you may therefore be required to take a higher dose. Your neurologist or epilepsy nurse will advise you about the dose.

Pregnancy

Risks to your baby from Lamotrigine include cleft palate and heart defects but we believe these risks are low, affecting approximately one in 100 babies. If you are planning a pregnancy you should discuss your medication with your GP before you conceive. We recommend you take folic acid (5mg daily) from at least eight weeks prior to conception until at least week 13 of pregnancy. If you are already pregnant it is too late to make these changes. The dose of Lamotrigine usually has to be increased during pregnancy. The changes to your dosage would be made in the epilepsy pregnancy clinic.

Drug interactions

Other antiepileptic drugs may influence the dose of Lamotrigine that you are given. Ordinary medications such as paracetamol and aspirin can be taken with Lamotrigine. For any other drugs that you are prescribed or recommended, always remind your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking Lamotrigine.

Other useful information

- Inform your doctor if you develop flu-like symptoms (fever, malaise) or skin rash.
- Keep a record of your seizures when you start any new medication. This will help determine future drug dosage changes.
- 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 Lamotrigine unless your doctor tells you.
- Store Lamotrigine away from direct heat and sunlight.

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.

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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