
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 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.



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 پیشمنت 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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