
Department of Neurosciences

Levetiracetam drug information

Levetiracetam is one of the newer antiepileptic drugs used to reduce the frequency of seizures. It is usually prescribed in combination with other antiepileptic drugs but can also be prescribed as a single medication. It is available in 250mg, 500mg, 750mg and 1000mg tablets. An oral solution of 100mg/ml is also available. A liquid concentrate is available for use as an infusion in hospital settings only.

Drug brand names

- Levetiracetam
- Keppra

Uses

Levetiracetam is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy.

Side effects

Levetiracetam is generally well tolerated. The side effects are dose related. The higher the dose, the more side effects one would experience. These side effects also tend to decrease over time and are only occasionally a significant problem. They disappear on reducing the dose or stopping the medication. 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.

- The most commonly reported side effects in the adults are excessive sleepiness and muscle weakness.
- Some patients will experience dizziness, headache or lethargy.
- Some patients experience nausea, vomiting and a feeling of indigestion.
- Some patients experience a change in mood and behaviour.
- Medically dangerous side effects are exceptionally rare.

Contraception

There are no reports to indicate that Levetiracetam affects the contraceptive pill. Other methods of contraception such as injections, coil etc. may also be used.

Pregnancy

Inform your doctor before you conceive so that appropriate advice may be given. The effects of Levetiracetam in pregnancy are not yet known. Once you are pregnant, it is generally too late to make changes to medication. We recommend you take folic acid 5mg daily from at least eight weeks prior to conception, until at least 13 weeks of pregnancy.

Drug information

No significant drug interactions have been reported with other anti epileptic medication. However inform your doctor about any other medication you may be taking.

Other useful information

- You can take Levetiracetam 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.
- 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.



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

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Authors | Erica Chisanga & Dr Mark Manford |
| Department | Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ www.cuh.org.uk |
| Contact number | 01223 217992 |
| Publish/Review date | March 2010/March 2013 (no changes made) |
| File name | Levetiracetam |
| Version number/Ref | 2/PIN1703 |