

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.



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
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