

Parent/Carer's Information Leaflet

Lacosamide

(also called Vimpat)

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LACOSAMIDE (also called Vimpat)

Lacosamide is a medicine used to treat epilepsies in adults and children. It is often used in combination with other medicines to control partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation. It is also sometimes used to treat pain e.g. in people with diabetes.

Lacosamide comes either as syrup (10mg/ml) or as tablets (50 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg and 200 mg).

How do I use it?

- Lacosamide usually taken twice a day
- If syrup is used, use a syringe to measure out the prescribed dose
- The tablets may be crushed and taken with soft food or juice
- If a dose is forgotten, and you remember up to 4 hours after missing the dose, give the forgotten dose as soon as you can
- If you remember only at or near the time the next dose is due, just give your usual dose. **Do not** give any extra Lacosamide.
- If your child vomits within 15 minutes of taking it, give the dose again; if your child vomits after 15 minutes of taking it, **do not** give it again, until the next dose is due.

The medicine is at the correct dosage when your child is free of seizures (fits) and has no side effects. It is not usually necessary to measure the blood level. If your child has been taking Lacosamide regularly, **do not stop it suddenly** as this could bring on a seizure. Keep a seizure diary if you can and remember to always bring all the medications with you to clinic appointments.

Use with other medicines?

Most over-the-counter medicines, antibiotics and Paracetamol (Calpol) can be taken safely with Lacosamide. Certain antidepressants can make Lacosamide less effective and you should tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking before being prescribed any new drug.

Lacosamide is not thought to reduce the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill.

What are the common side-effects?

Side effects may occur in some patients, but symptoms are generally only mild or moderately troublesome.

- The commonest are dizziness, headache, tiredness and feeling unsteady on your feet
- Others include sickness and vomiting, constipation and flatulence
- Rarely it can affect the way your heart beats and you should inform your doctor of any heart conditions before starting Lacosamide

Lacosamide in Children

As Lacosamide is new, most research and testing have been in adult patients. At present it has only has marketing authorisation for use in adults. However, experience in children is increasing.

For further information please refer to the manufacturer's patient information leaflet