

RUFINAMIDE (also called Inovelon)

Rufinamide (pronounced “*Ruff-in-a-mide*”) is used, often alongside other medicines, in the treatment of seizures in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome and similar severe epilepsies in children. Rufinamide comes in either 100mg, 200mg or 400mg pink tablets.

HOW TO USE

- Rufinamide is usually taken twice a day with food.
- The tablets can be taken whole with water / milk / juice, or crushed and put into half a glass of water.
- Rufinamide is usually started at a low dose and then increased gradually to the most appropriate dose. The dose is usually increased every week or every couple of days, as directed by your doctor
- 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 Rufinamide.
- 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 or convulsions (fits) and has no side effects. It is not usually necessary to measure the blood level. If your child has been taking Rufinamide 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 Rufinamide. Certain antidepressants can make Rufinamide less effective and you should tell your child's doctor about all the medicines your child is taking before being prescribed any new drug.

Rufinamide reduces the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill, patches and vaginal rings. You should seek advice from your doctor about alternative forms of contraception if required.

Rufinamide can interact with other antiepileptic medications by making them either more or less effective. Please consult your doctor for further information.

SIDE EFFECTS

- The most serious side effect of Rufinamide is a severe allergic reaction. Should your child develop any of the following symptoms you should seek medical advice immediately – rash, hives, itching, swelling of the face, difficulty breathing, fever, yellowing of the skin, yellowing of the whites of the eyes, dark urine, white stools.
- Other side effects include sickness and vomiting, dizziness, unsteady walking, headache, tummy ache, drowsiness, loss of appetite, poor attention span, and shakiness of the body and / or eyes. If any of these symptoms develop and not go away, consult your doctor for advice.

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