

Parent and Carer's Information Leaflet

Topiramate

(also called Topamax)

For further advice:

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CEWT website

www.cewt.org.uk

Epilepsy Action Website:

www.epilepsy.org.uk

Topiramate (also called Topamax)

Topiramate is useful in the treatment of certain types of epilepsy. It can be given in addition to other antiepileptic drugs or by itself. It seems to be effective in treating partial and secondary generalised seizures, and possibly other generalized seizures. The medicine is available in tablet form, with each tablet containing 25mg (white), 50mg (light yellow), 100mg (yellow) or 200mg (salmon pink) of Topiramate; or sprinkle capsules containing either 15mg or 25mg of Topiramate.

How do I use it?

- The medicine is usually given twice a day.
- Topiramate tablets do not need to be taken with meals, but should be swallowed whole. The sprinkle capsules can be opened and mixed with food or taken whole.
- If the capsules are opened the beads inside should be swallowed and **not** chewed
- If a dose of the medicine 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 that the next dose is due, just give your child the usual dose. **Do not** give any additional Topiramate.
- If your child vomits within 15 minutes of taking a dose, then give the dose again; if your child vomits after 15 minutes after taking the dose, then **do not** give it again.

The medicine is always introduced slowly and thereafter the dose is increased only every week. The precise dose will depend on the age and weight of the child. There is no need to measure the level of this medicine in the blood.

Follow the dose plan worked out by your doctor.

If your child has been taking the medicine

regularly, **do not stop it suddenly** as this could bring about frequent and repeated seizures or fits. Keep a seizure diary if you can and remember to always bring all the medicines with you to clinic appointments.

Use with other medicines?

Most over-the-counter medicines, antibiotics and anticonvulsants can be used with Topiramate. Topiramate may reduce the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill. This will need to be discussed with your doctor, as a pill with a higher content of oestrogen may be required or an alternative method of contraception.

What are the common side effects?

Topiramate does appear to be a relatively safe drug with few side effects, although like all medicines it may cause some side effects in about 5% of people. These side effects are:

1. Mild tremor and unsteadiness and dizziness.
2. Concentration difficulties, confusion slow thinking or drowsiness.
3. Occasionally, irritability, agitation, depression hallucinations and insomnia.
4. Less common side effects include memory or word-finding difficulties, reduced appetite, weight loss, increased saliva and visual difficulties, kidney stones. If your child experience blurred vision please tell your doctor (hospital or GP)

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