

What is Lamictal® (Lamotrigine)?

Lamictal® is an anti-epileptic drug that has been used to treat patients with epilepsy since 1996. It is helpful in the treatment of Partial Seizures and Generalized Seizures.

Starting the Medicine:

We usually gradually increase the dose, until your body gets adjusted to the medication. Since each patient is unique in that he/she breaks down the medication differently or may need a higher or lower dosage to control their seizures, there is no standard dose that is appropriate for all patients.

What is the Dosage of the Pill and What Does It Look Like?

25 mg white, shield-shaped tablet
100 mg peach, shield-shaped tablet
150 mg cream, shield-shaped tablet
200 mg blue, shield-shaped tablet

What Side Effects Can Be Caused by Lamictal®?

Side effects can be dose related (common) and idiosyncratic (rare).

Common Dose-Related Side Effects:

Dizziness, tiredness, being off balance, blurred and/or double vision, headache, nausea and vomiting, or rash may occur. Rashes are most likely to occur in the first 6 weeks of therapy. Because rash may indicate a more serious medical

condition, you should contact your doctor immediately if you develop a rash, fever or swollen glands.

If you have these side effects, your doctor may:

- reduce the individual dose by increasing the amount of times you take the medication daily
- decrease the daily dose and increase the bedtime dose
- instruct you to take your pills with food since this will slow the rate at which the medicine gets into the blood, but will not affect the total amount that is absorbed.

Rare Side Effects:

Abdominal pain, tremor, and insomnia are rare side effects.

Skin Rash:

As already mentioned, an allergic rash may occur with Lamictal®. If this occurs, contact your doctor immediately.

Pregnancy:

The effects of Lamictal® in human pregnancy are not known at this time. Any woman taking Lamictal® should talk to her doctor about this issue BEFORE becoming pregnant.

How Do I Take This Medication?

It is important to take your medication regularly since a stable blood level helps to reduce seizures. Therefore, the medication does not work when taken on an as needed basis. It is usually prescribed in two divided doses taken at regular times.

Can I Take Lamictal® With Other Medications?

Lamictal® does not appear to interact with many medications commonly used to treat other conditions. There is, however, a possibility of interaction with some medications. The Lamictal® concentration can be higher and there is an increased risk for rash and allergic reactions, if you are also taking Depakote. If this combination is used, your doctor will let you know about specific adjustments in doses. You should be sure to discuss all prescription and nonprescription medications you use with your doctor.

What Should I Do If I Miss a Dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. You may have to change your usual times taking Lamictal® when you are trying to make up the missing dose. If you have to "double up" on a dose, take that dose at bedtime.

Is My Blood Checked for Lamictal®?

Currently, little is known about the therapeutic range for blood levels for Lamictal. Therefore, levels may not routinely be checked. Dosing is usually based on patient tolerance and effectiveness in seizure control.

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