

What is Topamax® (Topiramate)?

Topamax® 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 Tonic-Clonic 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 dose 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, round tablet

100 mg gold, round tablet

200 mg brown, round tablet

What Side Effects Can Be Caused by Topamax®?

Side effects can be dose related (common) or idiosyncratic (rare):

Common Dose-Related Side Effects:

Dizziness, drowsiness, problems with concentration, difficulty sleeping, tremor, difficulty talking, or loss of balance may occur. These side effects are most frequent at the start of treatment, and may go away as your body gets adjusted to the medication.

If you have these side effects, your doctor may:

- spread out the dose more frequently during the day
- slow the rate of dose increase
- instruct you to take the 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:

These may include agitation, kidney stones, skin rash, nausea, vomiting. Also, a rare incidence of glaucoma has occurred in some patients. Please contact your physician immediately if you experience eye pain or changes in your vision after starting Topamax®.

Skin Rash:

An allergic reaction, or rash, may occur with Topamax. If this occurs, notify your doctor immediately.

Pregnancy:

Currently, no information is available about the effects of Topamax® during pregnancy. Any woman taking Topamax discuss this issue with her doctor BEFORE becoming pregnant.

How Do I Take My Medication?

It is very 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 (preferably) evenly divided doses taken at regular times.

Can I Take Topamax® with Other Medications?

Topamax® can be taken with most medications. However, there are interactions with acetazolamide, birth control pills, carbamazepine, dichlorphenamide, digoxin, and alcohol. Always tell your doctor what medicines you are taking.

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 Topamax when you are trying to make up the missed dose. If you have to “double up” on a dose, take that dose at bedtime.

Are Blood Levels Checked for Topamax®?

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

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