

What is Keppra® (Levetiracetam)?

Keppra is an anti-epileptic drug that has been used to treat patients with epilepsy since 2000. It is helpful in the treatment of Partial 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?

250 mg blue, oval tablet

500 mg yellow oval tablet

750 mg orange oval tablet

What Side Effects Can Be Caused by Keppra®?

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

Common Dose-Related Side Effects:

Drowsiness, weakness, dizziness, and headache may occur. These side effects are most frequent at the start of treatment, and they are temporary and usually go away as your body starts to adjust to the medication.

If you have these side effects, your doctor may:

- 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:

Difficulty walking and loss of appetite are rare side effects.

Skin Rash:

An allergic rash may occur with Keppra® . If this occurs, contact your doctor immediately.

Pregnancy:

The effects of Keppra® in human pregnancy are not known at this time. Any woman taking Keppra® 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 Keppra® With Other Medications?

Yes, Keppra® may be taken with most medications. Always tell your doctor what other medications 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 Keppra[®] when you are trying to make up the missing dose. If you have to "double up" on a dose, take that dose at bedtime.

Will My Blood Count and Liver Enzymes be Checked?

At this time, there is no evidence for effects of Keppra[®] on blood counts or liver enzymes. Your doctor will determine if these lab tests are needed.

Is My Blood Checked for Keppra[®] ?

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

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