

## **What is Vimpat® (Lacosamide)?**

Vimpat® is an anti-epileptic drug that was FDA approved to treat patients with epilepsy in 2009. It is helpful in the treatment of Partial-Onset 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?**

50 mg pink tablet

100 mg dark yellow tablet

150mg salmon tablet

200 mg blue tablet

## **What Side Effects Can Be Caused by Vimpat®?**

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, may occur.

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:**

Diarrhea, memory impairment, depression, itching and rash are rare side effects.

**Skin Rash:**

Although rare, an allergic rash may occur with Vimpat®, as with any medication. If this occurs, contact your doctor immediately.

**Pregnancy:**

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

Vimpat® does not appear to interact with many medications commonly used to treat other conditions. There is, however, a possibility of interaction with some medications, particularly among drugs that affect the heart conduction system.

## **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 Vimpat® 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 Vimpat®?**

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

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