

Anti-epileptic medication

General information regarding anti-epileptic medications

Side Effects

- All medications have side effects. Not everyone will experience those side effects and many children tolerate medicines very well.
- Some side effects occur when commencing a new medication and are dose related. Speak to your doctor as an adjustment of dosage may remove the adverse effect. Possible side effects in this category are: upset tummy, tiredness or sleepiness, and occasionally poor coordination.
- Many families worry about learning. There are a number of factors that influence learning, including: the epilepsy syndrome, depression, behaviour, and medications. Good documentation of school progress and input from the teacher is helpful for your doctor in determining what might help. Keep a diary of concerns associated with new medicines or dose increases.

What if my child vomits after having his/her dose?

- If your child vomits **within 30 minutes** after having their dose then repeat the dose.
- If it is longer than 30 minutes since having the dose you do not need to repeat the dose, but if vomiting or diarrhoea continue, seek medical help.

What if I forget to give a dose?

- If a dose is missed, it should be taken as soon as it is remembered. The next due dose should be taken at the usual time.
- However, if the missed dose is remembered in close proximity to the next due dose (i.e. within 3 to 4 hours of next dose), please seek medical advice.
- If unsure about what to do, the treating GP, epilepsy nurse, paediatrician or neurologist should be contacted.

How do I store the medication?

- Make sure the medication is kept out of direct sunlight and away from heat.
- Keep out of reach of children.
- If you have any concerns please contact your doctor.

General information

- **Do not** stop giving or change any medications without discussing this with your doctor.
- **Do not** change the **dose** of medication without talking to your doctor first.
- If your child has more seizures than usual, contact your doctor.
- It is best to make sure your child always has the same brand of medications as there may be differences in the performance across brands.
- Try to give the medications at approximately the same time each day.
- Always make sure you have enough medication. Order a new prescription at least 2 weeks before you are due to run out.
- Always check the expiry date on your medication, if the medication has expired, take it back to your pharmacy.
- In case of overdose or poisoning please contact the **Poisons Information Center on 131126**.