

Rufinamide

Usage

Rufinamide is one of the newer anti-seizure medications used to control seizures/fits. It must be prescribed by a doctor. You should never give your child anyone else's medications.

Side Effects

All medications have side effects. Not everyone will experience side effects. Below are some of the possible side effects your child may experience:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting
- Constipation
- Diarrhoea
- Sleepiness
- Blurred vision
- Weight loss
- Insomnia
- Anxiety
- Nosebleeds

Hypersensitivity Reaction

This is a serious and potentially life threatening reaction to Rufinamide that has been reported in a small number of children. The symptoms described are:

- Fever
- Rash
- Blood in the urine
- Swelling of the glands around the neck, under the arms or in the groin

If your child develops any of these symptoms after starting Rufinamide, you should contact your doctor immediately or go to the nearest Emergency Department. The medication may need to be stopped immediately under medical supervision.

Can other medications be given with Rufinamide?

Many anticonvulsant medications interact with Rufinamide and your Doctor will need to review your anticonvulsants when Rufinamide is used.

Rufinamide may decrease the efficacy of hormonal contraceptives such as the oral contraceptive pill and should be discussed with your treating Doctor.

Pregnancy and contraception

- There is very limited data on the safety of Rufinamide during pregnancy at the present time.
- It is important that pregnancies are planned and that all medications including Rufinamide are discussed with your Doctor before pregnancy. Any effects that Rufinamide may have on the foetus should be discussed with your Doctor.
- Rufinamide may decrease the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives such as the oral contraceptive pill and should be discussed with your treating Doctor.
- For further information, refer to the Contraception and Pregnancy section on the PENNSW website:

<https://pennsw.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/families/living-epilepsy/contraception-pregnancy>

Monitoring and Levels

Your Doctor may perform an ECG before commencing Rufinamide as it has been found to make certain heart conditions worse.

What else do I need to Know?

If you have any questions please ask your doctor.