

Topiramate

Usage

Topiramate is an anti-seizure medication. It can be useful in multiple types of seizures. Topiramate has been found to be effective in focal seizures, generalised seizures, and Lennox Gastaut Syndrome.

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.

- Marked loss of appetite/loss of weight (may be dose dependant)
- Kidney stones - all patients must drink plenty of fluids and report any back pain or pain on urination to their doctor
- Inability to tolerate heat due to reduced sweating. Take precautions to prevent over heating especially in the under-2-year-olds
- Sedation, usually with higher doses
- Irritability, crankiness, depression, or mood changes can occur
- Changes in learning ability
- Decreased attention
- Problems with word finding and speech
- In young babies, a higher level of acid in the blood may occur. Your doctor will monitor with blood tests and treat as needed
- Fatigue
- Blurred vision

Rare Side Effects

- Visual field deficit has been described occasionally
- Numbness and hand tingling
- Any eye pain needs to be evaluated urgently as glaucoma can rarely occur

Can other medications be given with Topiramate?

Your Doctor will check and make sure that other drugs your child is taking are compatible with Topiramate. There are interactions between Topamax and other anticonvulsants (for example Valproate).

Epilepsy and Pregnancy

Topiramate may influence the oral contraceptive pill, altering how it works. Topiramate can rarely cause malformations of a baby in the uterus. If a pregnancy is planned a discussion with your neurologist is recommended.

Any issues related to childbearing please refer to the PENNSW website:
www.PENNSW.com.au.

What else do I need to Know?

If you have any questions please ask your doctor.

Monitoring and Levels

Occasional blood tests may be required, particularly if your child seems unwell or has kidney pain.

A urine test maybe required to check for blood or calcium.

An ultrasound is done if a kidney stone is suspected.