
LAMOTRIGINE (Lamictal) Fact Sheet for Patients

Generic Name: Lamotrigine (la-MOH-tri-jeen)

Brand Names: Lamictal, Subvenite

What Does It Treat?

Lamotrigine is used to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorder. It helps to control seizures and stabilize mood in individuals with these conditions.

How Does It Work?

Lamotrigine works by stabilizing electrical activity in the brain. It blocks excessive firing of neurons, which helps prevent or reduce the occurrence of seizures. In bipolar disorder, it helps regulate mood swings and prevent episodes of mania or depression.

How Do I Take It?

Lamotrigine is available in tablet form. It is typically taken orally, with or without food. Your health care provider will provide specific instructions on dosing and schedule based on your condition.

What is the Dose?

The dose of lamotrigine varies depending on the condition being treated. For instance, the typical dosage, used for bipolar disorder, is 200-400 mg per day. The dosing depends on both the condition being treated and the product being used and should be determined by your health care provider.

How Long Will I Take It?

The duration of lamotrigine treatment can vary depending on the condition being treated. Your health care provider will assess your progress and determine the appropriate length of treatment, which may be long-term for epilepsy or bipolar disorder.

What If I Miss a Dose?

If you forget to take a dose of lamotrigine, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your regular dosing schedule. Do not take extra doses to make up for the missed one.

What Are Possible Side Effects?

- Most common: Headache, dizziness, drowsiness, nausea, non-serious rash.
- Serious but rare: Serious skin reactions (rash, blisters), heart rhythm problems.

What Else Should I Know?

- Lamotrigine may interact with other medications, so inform your health care provider of all the medications you are taking.
- It is important to follow your health care provider's instructions for gradually increasing the dose of lamotrigine to minimize the risk of side effects.
- Inform your health care provider if you have a history of liver or kidney problems, if you have any allergic reactions, or if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.
- Do not stop taking lamotrigine abruptly without consulting your health care provider, as it may lead to increased seizure activity or mood changes.

Remember, this fact sheet provides general information about this medication. For more specific guidance and instructions, consult your health care provider.