

Lamictal (Pronounced: LAM-ic-tal Generic name: Lamotrigine)

Why is this drug prescribed? -- Lamictal is prescribed to control partial seizures in people with epilepsy. It is used in combination with other antiepileptic medications such as Tegretol and Depakene. While it is not FDA approved for use in psychiatric illnesses, reports suggest that Lamictal may be beneficial in the treatment of mood instability, depression and anxiety.

Most important fact about this drug -- You may develop a rash during the first 2 to 8 weeks of Lamictal therapy, particularly if you are also taking Depakene. If this happens, notify your doctor immediately. The rash could become severe and even dangerous, particularly in children. A slight possibility of this problem remains for up to 6 months.

How should you take this medication? Take Lamictal exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Taking more than the prescribed amount can increase your risk of developing a serious rash. Do not stop taking this medication without first discussing it with your doctor. An abrupt halt could increase your seizures. Your doctor can schedule a gradual reduction in dosage.

--*If you miss a dose...* Take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to your regular schedule. Do not take 2 doses at once.

--*Storage instructions.* Store in a tightly closed container at room temperature. Keep dry and protect from light.

What side effects may occur? Side effects cannot be anticipated. If any develop or change in intensity, tell your doctor as soon as possible. Only your doctor can determine if it is safe for you to continue taking Lamictal. *More common side effects may include:* Blurred vision, dizziness, double vision, headache, nausea, rash, sleepiness, uncoordinated movements, vomiting. *Less common side effects may include:* Abdominal pain, accidental injury, anxiety, constipation, depression, diarrhea, fever, "flu-like" symptoms, increased cough, inflammation of vagina, irritability, painful menstruation, sore throat, tremor. *Rare side effects may include:* Absence of menstrual periods, chills, confusion, dry mouth, ear pain, emotional changes, heart palpitations, hot flashes, joint disorders, memory decrease, mind racing, muscle weakness, muscle spasm, poor concentration, ringing in ears, sleep disorder, speech disorder

Why should this drug not be prescribed? If you are sensitive to or have ever had an allergic reaction to Lamictal, you should not take this medication. Make sure your doctor is aware of any drug reactions you have experienced.

Special warnings about this medication -- Lamictal may cause some people to become drowsy, dizzy, or less alert. Do not drive or operate dangerous machinery or participate in any activity that requires full mental alertness until you are certain the drug does not have this kind of effect on you. Remember to be alert for development of any type of rash, especially during the first 2 to 8 weeks of treatment. Be sure to tell your doctor about any medical problems you have before starting therapy with Lamictal. If you have kidney or liver disease, or heart problems, Lamictal should be used with caution. Lamictal may cause vision problems. If any develop, notify your doctor immediately. Also be quick to call your doctor if you develop a fever or have any other signs of an allergic reaction. Notify your doctor, too, if your seizures get worse.

Possible food and drug interactions when taking this medication -- Lamictal is not used alone; it is combined with other medications used to treat epilepsy, including the following: [Carbamazepine (Tegretol), Phenobarbital (Donnatal, Quadralin, others), Phenytoin (Dilantin), Primidone (Mysoline), Valproic acid (Depakene)]. Be sure to check with your doctor before combining any other drugs with your seizure medications. Lamictal, in particular, may inhibit the action of sulfa drugs such as Bactrim, Proloprim, and Septra.

Special information if you are pregnant or breastfeeding -- The effects of Lamictal during pregnancy have not been adequately studied. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, tell your doctor immediately. Lamictal should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed. Lamictal appears in breast milk. Because the effects of Lamictal on an infant exposed to this medication are unknown, breastfeeding is not recommended.

Recommended dosage ADULTS *Lamictal combined with Tegretol, Dilantin, Phenobarbital, and Mysoline:* One 50-milligram dose per day for 2 weeks, then two 50-milligram doses per day, for 2 weeks. After that, your doctor will have you take a total of 300 milligrams to 500 milligrams a day, divided into 2 doses. *Lamictal combined with Depakene and any of the above medications:* One 25-milligram dose every other day for 2 weeks, then 25 milligrams once a day for 2 weeks. After that, the doctor will prescribe a total of 100 milligrams to 150 milligrams a day, divided into 2 doses. You should not take more than 25 milligrams every other day because of the increased risk of rash with this combination of drugs. CHILDREN Safety and effectiveness of Lamictal in children below the age of 16 have not been established.

Overdosage Any medication taken in excess can have serious consequences. If you suspect an overdose, seek medical treatment immediately. There has been little experience with Lamictal overdose. However, the following symptoms might be seen. Symptoms of Lamictal overdose may include: Coma, dizziness, headache, sleepiness

By my signature below, I give consent for the above-named medication to be administered and for a change of medication within this medication category. My signature also indicates that I am aware of, have read and discussed the reasons for the use of this medication, and its potential risks and benefits.

Client Signature: _____ Date Signed _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date Signed _____