

Information for Patients about
Lamotrigine



Lamotrigine is a medicine which is used to treat epilepsy. Although not licensed for the treatment of pain it has been shown to be helpful in the management of certain types of pain. You are on this medicine to treat your pain.

Dosage: Take only as directed. These directions may change. Lamotrigine is usually started at a low dose and then increased slowly to find the best dose. (Please see the section on increasing Lamotrigine).

It may take as little as a few days before you feel any pain relief, but it can take longer. It may take time to get to the right dose for you and to allow the medicine to build up in your body.

NB. If you are female and plan to have children, you must tell your GP before starting this medicine. This medicine may cause birth defects in babies if taken during pregnancy. Women of child-bearing age must use appropriate contraception. However, Lamotrigine may affect oral contraception. If you are on this or plan to start it, please check with your GP that you are on a correct dose before you start Lamotrigine.

Possible Side Effects

- The most common side effect is drowsiness. This is usually temporary. If you are affected by this do not drive or operate machinery. You must tell the DVLA if you are on any medicines which affect your driving.
- The combination of Lamotrigine with alcohol can cause significant drowsiness. We advise you not to drink when you first take this medication, and whilst increasing the dose. Once you are on a stable dose, you may drink alcohol if the drowsiness has stopped.

- Less common side effects are nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dry mouth, abnormal way of walking, shakiness, and difficulty with vision.

Stop this medicine immediately if you experience a skin rash, sore mouth or eyes, fever, swelling around your face, swollen glands in your neck, armpit or groin, unexpected bleeding or bruising, and, or a sore throat, and speak to your GP as soon as possible.

Increasing the Dose

Your doctor will tell you what the first dose will be and you should take this at night. You should then increase the dose weekly as below until you reach the maximum dose of 100mg twice a day.

	Morning	Night
Week 1	No medicine	25mg
Week 2	25mg	25mg
Week 3	25mg	50mg
Week 4	50mg	50mg
Week 5	50mg	75mg
Week 6	75mg	75mg
Week 7	75mg	100mg
Week 8	100mg	100mg

- If you experience side effects do not continue to increase the dose. Continue at the previous dose one week and then try to increase the dose again.
- If you find that you are getting good pain relief at a low dose, you don't need to keep increasing the dose. However, do not increase the dose any quicker than advised, and do not take more than the highest dose.

Stopping

If your GP, Community Pharmacist or NHS 24 decides that you should stop this medicine, do not suddenly stop taking your medicine, unless advised to do so. You should gradually lower the dose over 1 to 2 weeks. Below is an example of how to reduce the dose.

You should always contact your GP for directions.

	Morning	Night
Day 0	100mg	100mg
Day 1-3	75mg	75mg
Day 4-6	50mg	50mg
Day 7-9	25mg	25mg
Day 10	Stop	

However, if you experience skin rash, sore mouth or eyes, fever, swelling around your face, swollen glands in your neck, armpit or groin, unexpected bleeding or bruising, and, or a sore throat, then you should stop Lamotrigine immediately and tell your GP as soon as possible.



Remember!

- Don't run out of medicine.
- Ask for a repeat prescription before your medication is finished.
- If you have any questions about this medicine please contact your GP, Community Pharmacist or NHS 24 on **08454 24 24 24** for advice.

This leaflet is a summary of some information. However, you should still always read the manufacturers information which comes with your medication.