

Generic Name: Topiramate

Brand Name: Topamax

What Is It Used For?

- Decreasing seizure activity in various types of seizures.

How Long Does The Medicine Take To Work?

- 3-6 days

What Are The Important Safety Concerns?

- When first starting the medicine, your child may be slightly drowsy and/or dizzy.
- Only adjust the dosage as recommended by your health care provider. They will usually increase this medication slowly to avoid side effects. Never increase the dosage more than **once per week** unless directed otherwise. Increasing this medication slowly will help to reduce side effects.
- Drink lots of water while on this medication
- Once you have started with one brand of the medication stay with it. Avoid switching between different brands.
- Check with your pharmacist before taking herbal medications and/or over-the-counter medications. They may have adverse effects if taken with anti-seizure medications.
- Do not stop taking this medication all of a sudden because this could result in seizures.
- It is important to keep a record of your child's seizures and side effects to determine how well he/she is responding to the medication.

What Are The Possible Side Effects?

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| • Fatigue* | • Sleepiness* | • Drowsiness |
| • Loss of Appetite* | • Speech Problems* | • Double Vision |
| • Memory Problems* | • Diarrhea* | • Anxiety |
| • Confusion* | • Tremor* | • Blurred Vision |
| • Slowing of thought | • Dizziness* | • Abdominal Pain |
| • Nausea* | • Weight Loss* | • Constipation |
| • Numbness* | • Decreased Sweating | • Depression |
| • | • | • Kidney stones |

*more common side effects

What Medications May Alter The Effectiveness Of This Drug?

- Carbamazepine (Tegretol), Phenytoin (Dilantin), Valproic Acid (Depakene, Epival) - lower the amount of Topiramate in your child's body.

How do I Give The Medication?

- Do not crush or break tablets.
- Capsules may be swallowed whole or opened and sprinkled on food.
- Give with food or milk to reduce stomach upset and/or to improve the taste if needed. Do not take with an antacid medication.
- Give your child the medication as close to the same time as possible each day and only the amount prescribed.
- If your child misses a dose, give the dose as soon as you remember or can. If the next dose of the medicine needs to be given in less than 4 hours, do **not** give the dose you forgot. Give the next dose a little earlier and then return to giving the medicine at the usual times after that.
- If your child vomits within 30 minutes of taking the medication, repeat the dose.
- If your child vomits after 30 minutes of taking the medication, do not repeat the dose.

When Do I Call My Health Care Provider?

Call your health care provider or go to your nearest emergency room if you are concerned about your child in any way. With Topiramate the following would be of concern

- Red or sore eyes
- Rash
- More seizures
- Becomes aggressive
- Unusual bleeding
- Hallucinations (sees things that aren't there)
- Problems seeing
- Yellow skin or eyes
- Tiny purple spots on skin

What Are The Available Forms And Dosages?

- 15 mg Sprinkle Capsule
- 25 mg Sprinkle Capsule
- 25 mg Tablet
- 100 mg Tablet
- 200 mg Tablet