

## Generic Name: Lacosamide

## Trade Name: Vimpat

### What is it used for?

- Used with other anti-seizure medications to treat partial onset seizures

### How long does the medicine take to work?

- 3-4 days

### What are the important safety concerns?

- When first starting the medicine, your child may feel 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.
- Once your child has started with one brand of the medication stay with it. Avoid switching between different brands
- Check with your pharmacist before having your child take herbal medications and/or over-the-counter medications. They may have adverse effects if taken with anti-seizure medications.
- Never stop this medication suddenly because it could result in seizures.
- It is important to keep a record of seizures and side effects to determine how well your child is responding to the medication. **Please bring these records to all clinic appointments**
- **Always bring all your child's medications to every clinic appointment**

### Does my child need blood work or any other test before starting this medication?

- Most children require no testing prior to starting Lacosamide. In rare cases, for example, if your child has a severe heart condition, an ECG may be done.

### What are the possible side effects?

Although rare, your child may have some of the following side effects while taking Lacosamide. Often these will resolve after your child has been on the medication for a few weeks. Please contact your healthcare provider if your child continues to have any of these side effects, especially if they are bothering them.

- Dizziness\*
- Double Vision\*
- Nausea\*
- Unsteadiness\*
- Vomiting\*
- Headache
- Drowsiness
- Unusual eye movements
- Loss of Appetite
- Blurred Vision
- Fatigue

\*more common side effects

### **When do I call my health care provider?**

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

- Heart beating more quickly than usual
- Trouble breathing
- Chest pain
- Unusual behaviours
- Suicidal thoughts
- Rash or Hives
- Increase in seizures
- Changes in mood

### **How do I give the medication?**

- It can be taken with food or on an empty stomach. It is well absorbed either way.
- Giving with food may reduce stomach upset and/or to improve the taste if needed.
- Do not give your child an antacid medication within one hour of taking this medication.
- Each day, give your child the medication as close to the same time as possible and only the amount prescribed.
- If your child misses a dose, give the dose as soon as you are able to. If the next dose of Lacosamide is 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. Do not give two doses at the same time.
- 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.

### **What medications may alter the effectiveness of this drug?**

One benefit of Lacosamide is that it interacts with very few medications. It has been tested with most other anti-seizure medications and has not been shown to interact. It is always important that you tell your healthcare provider and pharmacist if your child takes any other medications (prescription, over the counter or herbal) as in some cases the dose of Lacosamide may need to be adjusted.

### **What are the available forms and dosages?**

- Tablet 50 mg
- Tablet 100 mg
- Tablet 150 mg
- Tablet 200 mg
- Syrup 10 mg/ml