

Generic Name: Primidone
Brand Name: Mysoline

What Is It Used For?

- Decreasing seizure activity in various types of seizures.

How Long Does The Medicine Take To Work?

- 2-5 days

What Are The Important Safety Concerns?

- Be sure to tell your health care provider if your child is taking Phenobarbital.
- 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.
- 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 they are responding to the medication. **Please bring these records to all clinic appointments**
- **Always bring all your child's medications to every clinic appointment**

What Special Tests Can Be Done?

- A blood test will be done before starting this medication to check your child's liver function and blood counts. If the blood tests are normal, it is very safe for you child to take this medication.
- Routine blood work may be done to help determine the best dosage for you child, and also if they have side effects to the medication.
- If you child is required to have blood work it must be done BEFORE they get the medication. This is called a trough level.
- Since Primidone breaks down into Phenobarbital (another seizure medication) both levels will be done.
- The Primidone level usually falls between 23 and 65.
- The Phenobarbital level usually falls between 65 and 170.

What Are The Possible Side Effects?

- Blurred Vision*
- Depression*
- Sleepiness*
- Drowsiness*
- Fatigue*
- Depressed Breathing*
- Hyperactivity*
- Irritability*
- Loss of Appetite*
- Behavioural changes
- Nausea & Vomiting*
- Dizziness
- Rash
- Loss of Coordination

*more common side effects

How Do I Give The Medication?

- Give with food or milk to reduce stomach upset and/or to improve the taste if needed. Do not give with an antacid medication.
- You may crush the tablet and mix with food or fluid.
- 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.

What Medications May Alter The Effectiveness Of This Drug?

The following drugs lower the amount of Primidone in your child's body.

- Acetazolamide (Diamox)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol)
- Phenobarbital (Phenobarb) and Valproic Acid increase the amount of Primidone in your child's body

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 Primidone the following would be of concern:

- Rash
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- More seizures
- Problems with coordination
- Tiny purple spots on skin

What Are The Available Forms And Dosages?

- 50 mg Tablet
- 250 mg Tablet
- 125 mg Chewable Tablet
- 250 mg/5 ml Syrup