

A medication information leaflet for paediatric patients

SODIUM VALPROATE

Other names: Epilim®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

The name of your child's medicine is: Sodium valproate

Available Preparations:

Sodium Valproate Crushable tablet 100mg

Sodium Valproate Enteric Coated tablets 200mg and 500mg (should not be crushed)

Sodium Valproate Oral liquid 200mg/5mL (sugar free)

Why is your child taking this medicine?

Sodium valproate is used to control seizures (fits) in most types of epilepsy. It can be used on its own or in combination with other antiepileptic drugs for the treatment of epilepsy.

When to give this medicine to your child

- Give regularly exactly as directed by your doctor or pharmacist; never give more than the prescribed dose.
- Give sodium valproate with food at the same time(s) every day. Marking a calendar may be a helpful reminder.
- Uncoated 100mg tablets may be crushed (or chewed) and swallowed with water.
- Enteric coated 200mg and 500mg tablets should be swallowed whole with water – do not crush.
- If giving your child sodium valproate liquid, carefully measure each dose with an oral syringe or medicine measure (available from your community pharmacy). Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the right amount.
- Ensure you always have a supply of medicine on hand.

DO NOT STOP giving sodium valproate without your doctor's permission.

What should you do if your child misses a dose?

Give the dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for the next dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to the regular dosing schedule. You should not give two doses at the same time.

What should you do if your child vomits after a dose

If the vomiting occurs less than 15 minutes after the medicine is given, give the entire dose again. If more than 15 minutes have passed, do not give it again until the next scheduled dose. If two or more doses are missed call your doctor.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called side effects.

Call your doctor **immediately** if your child has any of these side effects:

- loss of seizure control
- severe weakness or dizziness
- severe vomiting that does not go away
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- yellowing of the skin or eyes
- rash or hives

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child has these side effects:

- nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps
- drowsiness or dizziness
- restlessness or irritability
- diarrhoea or constipation
- tremor
- hair loss (usually temporary – re-growth normally begins within a few months)

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any side effect is of a concern to you.

Other Medication

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child is taking any other medicines including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Sodium valproate may interact with a number of medications. Please check with your doctor or pharmacist when stopping or starting medicines as these may affect how well sodium valproate controls your child's epilepsy.

Before surgery of any kind tell your doctor or dentist that your child is taking this medicine.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.