



Patient Information - Mood Stabilizers

Medication Name <i>(with Generic)</i>	
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Expected Benefits	These medications may be used to treat conditions other than those listed, based on the medical judgment of your physician. These medicines are used primarily in the management of partial seizures with complex symptoms (psychomotor or temporal lobe seizures). Patients with these seizures appear to show greatest improvement. They are also useful in the treatment of generalized tonic-clonic seizures (Grand Mal), mixed seizure patterns or other partial or generalized seizures. Also, when used alone, or in combination with Lithium or Conventional Anti-Psychotics, these meds are used to treat mania or bipolar affective disorder (manic depressive disorder). It has some success as preventative of migraines in adults.
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Alternative Treatments	You may discuss these options with your physician: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">a. No treatment</td> <td style="width: 33%;">c. Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Psychotherapy</td> <td>d. Other types of medication</td> </tr> </table>	a. No treatment	c. Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)	b. Psychotherapy	d. Other types of medication
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Important	It is very important to take your medicine as prescribed and to follow all of your physician's instructions while taking this medicine.
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Warning Tegretol	Decreases in platelet and white blood cell counts may occur during use, which may lead to unusual bleeding or bruising, yellowing of skin and eyes, stomach pain, darkened urine or pale stools, fever, chills, sore throat or ulcers in the mouth. Notify your MD immediately if these occur.
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Warning Lamictal	Serious skin rash may occur, please notify your physician if this happens
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Warning Depakote	Bedtime administration may minimize central nervous system depressive effects; gastro-intestinal irritation may be minimized by taking with food. Delayed release tablets may reduce the incidence of irrational gastro-effects. Hepatic failure resulting in fatalities has occurred in patients receiving valproic acid. Children under the age of two (2) are at increased risk. Benefits of therapy should be weighed against the risks. Life threatening pancreatitis has been reported in children and adults. Valproate can produce birth defects in fetuses. Caution in childbearing age women.
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Side Effects *	Any medication may produce unwanted side effects along with the desired results. Some side effects may appear even before the benefit from the medication is seen. If side effects do appear, they usually fade during continued treatment. Examples of side effects which may occur include:			
Frequently	Drowsiness Diarrhea	Dizziness Tremors	Unsteadiness insomnia	
Occasionally	Skin rash Leg Cramps Weight gain	Confusion Flu like symptoms Talkativeness	Headache Diarrhea Increased appetite	Blurred vision depression
Rarely	Bone marrow depression Weight loss	Urinary frequency Back pain Depression	Visual hallucinations Hair loss	Abnormal liver function tests Ringing in the ears

*** ANY SIDE EFFECTS SHOULD BE REPORTED AND DISCUSSED WITH THE DOCTOR, NURSE, AND / OR PHARMACIST.**

Interactions with other meds, natural products	While in the hospital, your pharmacist and physician watch for drug interactions. If you are an outpatient, you should tell your doctor or dentist about all medication you are taking. It is very important to talk with your doctor or pharmacist to see if other medicines (including medicines obtained without prescription) can be taken safely with this medication
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Cautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In rare cases, severe forms of dermatitis / rashes may be life-threatening. Notify your doctor immediately if you develop a skin rash Dizziness may temporarily impair your ability to drive or operate machinery. You should avoid these activities until you are familiar with the effects of your medicine The eye disease, glaucoma, may worsen with this medicine This medication should only be used during pregnancy when the potential benefits outweigh the unknown potential hazards to the unborn child Safety and effectiveness for use in children below the age of 6 years have not been established Do not breastfeed while taking these medications
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