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Anti Epileptic Drug (AED) Treatment of Epilepsy

Generic Name

(Brand Name / branded generic name)

Drug	Treatment	Possible side effects
Acetazolamide (Diamox)	Has a specific role in treating epilepsy associated with menstruation. It can also be used with other anti-epileptics for tonic-clonic and partial seizures. It is occasionally helpful in atypical absence, atonic and tonic seizures	Nausea, vomiting, taste disturbance, loss of appetite, headache, dizziness, flushing, Increased urine output
Carbamazepine (Tegretol) (Tegretol Retard)	Partial and secondary generalised tonic-clonic seizures, primary generalised tonic-clonic seizures	Nausea, Vomiting, dizziness, drowsiness, skin rash, double vision, unsteadiness
Clobazam (Frisium)	Add-on for all seizure types Generalised tonic-clonic and partial seizures, but tolerance frequently develops	Drowsiness, light-headedness, confusion, gastro-intestinal disturbances
Clonazepam (Rivotril)	Add-on for all seizure types Partial seizures, absences and myoclonic jerks	Drowsiness, fatigue, dizziness, restlessness
Eslicarbazepine Acetate (Zebinix)	Add-on treatment in adults with partial seizures, with or without secondary generalisation	Dizziness, sleepiness, headache
Ethosuximide (Zarontin) (Emeside)	Typical absence seizures; it may also be used in atypical absence seizures. Rarely used for myoclonic or tonic seizures	Gastro Intestinal Disturbance Nausea, vomiting, headache, fatigue, dizziness, weight loss
Felbamate (Felbatol)	Add-on for all seizure types which have failed all other AEDs. Used under strict specialist supervision	Constipation, diarrhoea, difficulty sleeping, dizziness, headache, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting.
Gabapentin (Neurontin)	Mono-therapy and add-on treatment of partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation	Gastro Intestinal Disturbance Diarrhoea, dry mouth, drowsiness, dizziness headache, fatigue, weight gain

Lacosamide (Vimpat)	Add-on therapy in the treatment of partial-onset seizures with or without secondary generalisation	Nausea, vomiting, dizziness, headache, constipation, depression, double vision, drowsiness
Lamotrigine (Lamictal)	Mono-therapy and add-on treatment of partial seizures and primary and secondarily generalised tonic-clonic seizures; seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; mono-therapy of typical absence seizures in children	Gastro Intestinal Disturbance Skin rash, drowsiness, double vision, dizziness and headache, sleep disturbances
Levetiracetam (Keppra)	Mono-therapy and add-on treatment of partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation and for add-on therapy of myoclonic seizures and generalised tonic-clonic seizures	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, weight changes, cough, drowsiness, dizziness and headache, low mood
Lorazepam (Ativan)	Add-on for all seizure types Rescue use	Drowsiness, light-headedness
Midazolam (Epistatus buccal)	For prolonged or clusters of all seizure types Rescue use Status Epilepticus	Drowsiness
Oxcarbazepine (Trileptal)	Mono therapy and add-on treatment of partial seizures with or without secondary generalised tonic-clonic seizures	Nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, dizziness, headache and drowsiness Skin rash
Phenobarbital (Phenobarbitone)	All forms of epilepsy except absence seizures	Nausea, unsteadiness and drowsiness may occur initially but sedation and slowing of mental performance may persist
Phenytoin (Epanutin)	All forms of epilepsy except absence seizures. Serum level monitoring essential	Gastro Intestinal Disturbance, skin rash, drowsiness, constipation, tremor, unsteadiness and slurred speech. Coarsening of facial features, overgrowth of gums and acne may be a problem with prolonged therapy
Pregabalin (Lyrica)	Add-on therapy for partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation	Dry mouth, constipation, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, dizziness, changes in mood, attention difficulties, weight gain
Primidone (Mysoline)	All forms of epilepsy except absence seizures (Primidone is partly metabolised to phenobarbitone in the body)	Nausea, visual disturbances, unsteadiness and drowsiness may occur initially but sedation and slowing of mental performance may persist

Rufinamide (Inovelon)	Add-on treatment of seizures in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, weight loss, abdominal pain, drowsiness, insomnia, fatigue, rash and fever
Sodium Valproate (Epilim) (Epilim chrono) (Epilim chronosphere) (Episenta)	All forms of epilepsy	Drowsiness and tremor are infrequent side effects. Hair loss occurs in some people and on occasions excessive weight gain may occur. However these effects are usually reversible if the dose is reduced.
Tiagabine (Gabitril)	Add-on treatment for partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation not satisfactorily controlled with other anti-epileptic medication.	Diarrhoea, dizziness, tiredness, nervousness, tremor, impaired concentration, low mood
Topiramate (Topamax)	Mono-therapy and add-on treatment of generalised tonic-clonic seizures or partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation; add-on treatment of seizures in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome	Nausea, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, dry mouth, taste disturbance, weight loss, headache, fatigue, dizziness, word finding difficulties, pins and needles in hands and feet
Vigabatrin (Sabril)	Initiated and supervised by appropriate specialist, add-on treatment of partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation not satisfactorily controlled with other anti-epileptic drugs; mono-therapy for management of infantile spasms (West's syndrome)	Drowsiness, nausea, behaviour and mood changes. Visual field defects. Nervousness, low mood. Psychotic reactions have been reported
Zonisamide (Zonegran)	Add-on treatment for drug-resistant partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation	Nausea, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, weight loss, drowsiness, dizziness, confusion, irritability, skin rash

*Phenobarbitone is only available in generic form.