

Medicines for Epilepsy

This chart is designed to help people with epilepsy (seizure disorders) become more familiar with the medications they are taking. It is not designed for use by health or other professionals to identify drugs. Other drugs not listed here may also be prescribed to prevent seizures.

The pictures are of brand name drugs as of the printing date. However, drugs may change in appearance from time to time. Generic versions of these drugs (listed in italics, under the brand name) will look different from the brand name drugs.

The list of side effects is not complete because of space limitations. For a complete list, consult your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. More detailed sources of information on side effects include the drug's prescribing information sheet, or the Physician's Desk Reference.

Any change in physical or mental health in someone taking these medications should be reported promptly to the doctor. Safety in pregnancy has not been established for any of these medications. Questions about their use in pregnancy should be discussed with the doctor.



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FORM (of brand name product)	BRAND NAME (generic name)	AVERAGE ADULT DAILY DOSE <small>Actual doses for a person with epilepsy may be higher or lower than the doses listed.</small>	SOME SIDE EFFECTS <small>Not all individuals experience side effects. This partial list names some side effects individuals may experience.</small>
0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg	*ATIVAN® (lorazepam)	1 mg. – 10 mg.	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes
100 mg, 200 mg, 300 mg	CARBATROL® (extended release carbamazepine)	600 mg. – 1200 mg.	Dizziness, drowsiness, blurred or double vision, nausea, skin rashes, abnormal blood counts (rare)
250 mg	DEPAKENE® (valproate)	1750 mg. – 3000 mg.	Upset stomach, altered bleeding time, liver toxicity, hair loss, weight gain, tremor
Sprinkles 125 mg, 125 mg, 250 mg, 500 mg	DEPAKOTE® (divalproex sodium)	1750 mg. – 3000 mg.	Upset stomach, altered bleeding time, liver toxicity, hair loss, weight gain, tremor
250 mg, 500 mg	DEPAKOTE® ER (extended release divalproex sodium)	2000 mg – 3500 mg	Upset stomach, altered bleeding time, liver toxicity, hair loss, weight gain, tremor
500 mg	DIAMOX® (acetazolamide)	250 mg. – 1000 mg.	Appetite loss, frequent urination, drowsiness, confusion, numbness of extremities, kidney stones
50 mg, 30 mg, 100 mg	DILANTIN® (phenytoin)	200 mg. – 400 mg.	Clumsiness, insomnia, motor twitching, nausea, rash, gum overgrowth, hairiness, thickening of features
400 mg, 600 mg	FELBATOL® (felbamate)	1200 mg. – 3600 mg.	Anorexia, vomiting, insomnia, nausea, headache, liver and blood toxicity
2 mg, 4 mg, 12 mg, 16 mg	GABITRIL® (tiagabine)	32 mg. – 56 mg.	Tremor, dizziness, nervousness, difficulty concentrating, sleepiness, weakness
250 mg, 500 mg, 750 mg, 1000 mg	KEPPRA® (levetiracetam)	1000 mg. - 3000 mg.	Sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, loss of strength, dizziness, behavior changes
0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg	KLONOPIN® (clonazepam)	1.5 mg. – 20 mg.	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes
2 mg, 5 mg, 25 mg, 25 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg	LAMICTAL® (lamotrigine)	100 mg. – 500 mg.	Dizziness, headache, blurred vision, clumsiness, sleepiness, nausea, skin rash
25 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, 225 mg, 300 mg	LYRICA® (pregabalin)	150 mg. – 600 mg.	Dizziness, blurred vision, weight gain, sleepiness, difficulty concentrating, swelling of hands and feet, dry mouth
50 mg, 250 mg	MYSOLINE® (primidone)	250 mg. – 1000 mg.	Clumsiness, dizziness, appetite loss, fatigue, drowsiness, hyperirritability, insomnia, depression, hyperactivity (children)
100 mg, 300 mg, 400 mg, 600 mg, 800 mg	NEURONTIN® (gabapentin)	900 mg. – 3600 mg.	Sleepiness, dizziness, clumsiness, fatigue, twitching
15 mg, 30 mg, 60 mg, 100 mg	PHENOBARBITAL (phenobarbital)	100 mg.	Drowsiness, irritability, hyperactivity (children), behavioral problems, difficulty concentrating, depression
200 mg, 300 mg	PHENYTEK® (extended release phenytoin sodium)	200 mg. – 400 mg.	Clumsiness, insomnia, motor twitching, nausea, rash, gum overgrowth, hairiness, thickening of features
100 mg, 200 mg	TEGRETOL® (carbamazepine)	600 mg. – 1200 mg.	Dizziness, drowsiness, blurred or double vision, nausea, skin rashes, abnormal blood counts (rare)
100 mg, 200 mg, 400 mg	TEGRETOL XR® (extended release carbamazepine)	600 mg. – 1200 mg.	Dizziness, drowsiness, blurred or double vision, nausea, skin rashes, abnormal blood counts (rare)
Sprinkles 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg, 15 mg, 25 mg	TOPAMAX® (topiramate)	200 mg. – 400 mg.	Confusion, sleepiness, dizziness, clumsiness, difficulty thinking or talking, tingling sensation of the skin, nausea, decreased appetite
T-Tabs 3.75 mg, 7.5 mg, 15 mg, SD 11.25 mg, 22.5 mg	TRANXENE® (clonazepam)	15 mg. – 45 mg.	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes
150 mg, 300 mg, 600 mg	TRILEPTAL® (oxcarbazepine)	600 mg. – 2400 mg.	Difficulty concentrating, sleepiness, fatigue, dizziness, double vision, nausea, unsteadiness, rash
250 mg	ZARONTIN® (ethosuximide)	500 mg. – 1500 mg.	Appetite loss, nausea, drowsiness, headache, dizziness, fatigue, rash, abnormal blood counts (rare)
25 mg, 100 mg	ZONEGRAN® (zonisamide)	100 mg. – 600 mg.	Sleepiness, dizziness, loss of appetite, headache, nausea, irritability, difficulty concentrating, unsteadiness, fever, kidney stones, rash (should not be used in individuals allergic to sulfa drugs)
2.5 mg - 20 mg	DIASTAT® ACUDIAL™ (diazepam rectal gel)	Average Single Dose 0.2 mg. – 0.5 mg./kg.	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes

The following medicine is not prescribed for daily, long-term use, but to stop episodes of prolonged or cluster seizures.