

Using Topiramate for for Migraine Attacks

What is Topiramate?

Topiramate is a new licensed preventative medication for migraine which is found to be effective in a significant proportion of patients. Topiramate is also used to treat epilepsy.

Side effects

As with all medications, there are potential side effects in a small number of patients. The most often reported effects are: tiredness, pins and needles in the fingers and toes, dizziness, lowered sense of feeling in the skin, difficulty with language, nausea, diarrhoea, indigestion, dry mouth, weight loss, decrease in appetite, drowsiness, forgetfulness, difficulty with concentration or attention, difficulty in sleeping (insomnia), anxiety, mood swings, depression, changes in taste and vision disorders. Rarely, sudden blurring of vision, pain and redness of the eyes can occur, typically during the first month of starting Topiramate. This can indicate raised pressure within the eye (glaucoma). If you develop any eye symptoms, particularly in the first few weeks of treatment, you should tell your doctor immediately.

Who cannot take Topiramate?

You should not take Topiramate if you have:

- A history of glaucoma
- A history of kidney stones
- Ongoing depression: Topiramate may make depression worse.



Pregnancy and breast feeding

Topiramate is not recommended if you are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or are breast feeding. Women of child bearing age should take adequate contraceptive precautions.

Higher doses of the oral contraceptive pill are required whilst taking Topiramate. Women taking the oral contraceptive pill should discuss the dose with their GP.

Dosage

	morning	evening
Week 1	15mg	
Week 2	25mg	
Week 3	25mg	25mg
Week 4	25mg	50mg
Week 5	50mg	50mg

Do not increase the dose of Topiramate if you are experiencing bothersome side effects.

The maximum dose that can be tolerated should be tried for 2 months and, if effective in controlling migraine, continued for up to 6 months before reducing the dose slowly.

Topiramate may interact with Digoxin, Metformin and thiazide derivatives but the clinical significance of these interactions is not clear.

This leaflet is intended to provide a brief overview of aspects of this treatment protocol. It is not intended as a substitute for the comprehensive 'product information' leaflet found inside all boxes of medication. The 'product information' leaflet should always be read before taking medication.

Your prescribing doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of the medication as it relates to you and answer any further questions you may have.

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Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital.
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