

Topiramate in Migraine Attacks

Topiramate is a 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

All tablets have a number of side effects listed in the medication packets. The most often reported common are: tiredness, pins and needles in the fingers and toes, decrease in appetite and weight loss, difficulty with concentration or attention, anxiety and depression. Very rarely topiramate can cause raised pressure within the eye (glaucoma) which causes sudden blurring of vision, pain and redness of the eyes, usually in the first month of treatment. Rarely, topiramate can cause kidney stones.

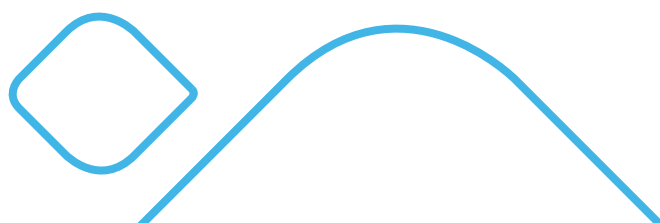
Who cannot take Topiramate?

You should not take topiramate if you have had:

- kidney stones
- depression: topiramate may make depression worse.

Pregnancy and breast feeding

Children born to mothers on topiramate are known to have a higher risk of birth defects, learning and mental problems and being smaller at birth than usual. Therefore, women of childbearing potential must have a pregnancy test before starting treatment, must use effective contraception and sign an Annual Risk Awareness Form (ARAF) as part of the Topiramate Pregnancy Prevention Programme. Topiramate should also be avoided while breast feeding.



Topiramate makes some kinds of hormonal contraception less effective. Women taking oral contraceptive pills should discuss this dose with their GP and may be recommended

- copper IUD (coil)
- levonorgestrel-releasing IUS (coil) or
- depot medroxyprogesterone acetate injection which must be in conjunction with use of condoms.

Dosage

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

Do not increase the dose of topiramate if you experience bothersome side effects. The maximum dose that can be comfortably tolerated should be tried for 2 months and, if effective in controlling migraine, continued for up to 6 months before a trial off treatment.

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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If you would like this leaflet in email form, large print, braille or another language, please contact the Patient Support and Complaints team on 01225 825656.