

Generic Name: Lamotrigine  
Brand Name: Lamictal

### What Is It Used For?

- Decreasing seizure activity in partial, generalized seizures, absence and myoclonic seizures.
- Note: on rare occasions, Lamotrigine may increase myoclonic seizures.

### How Long Does The Medicine Take To Work?

- 3-10 days

### What Are The Important Safety Concerns?

- The amount of medication your child is taking needs to be increased **very slowly** to avoid side effects.
- Your child may need to be on an extra anti-convulsant while this medication is slowly being increased to make sure the seizures are managed.
- Be sure to inform your health care provider if your child is taking Valproic Acid at the same time as Lamotrigine.
- When first starting this medicine, your child may be slightly drowsy and dizzy.
- **Only adjust the dosage as recommended by your health care provider.** They will usually increase this medication **slowly** to avoid side effects. Never increase the dosage more than **once per week** unless directed otherwise.
- Once you have started with one brand of the medication stay with it. Avoid switching between different brands.
- Check with your pharmacist before taking herbal medications and/or over-the-counter medications. They may have adverse effects if taken with anti-seizure medications.
- Do not stop taking this medication suddenly because this could result in seizures.
- It is important to keep a record of your child's seizures and side effects to determine how well they are responding to the medication.
- It is important to keep a record of seizures and side effects to determine how well your child is responding to the medication. **Please bring these records to all clinic appointments**
- **Always bring all your child's medications to every clinic appointment**

### What are the Possible Side Effects?

- |                   |                    |  |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| • Double Vision*  | • Vomiting*        | • Abdominal Pain                       |
| • Nausea*         | • Drowsiness*      | • Skin Rash                            |
| • Blurred Vision* | • Loss of Appetite | • Stevens- Johnson<br>or TENS syndrome |
| • Dizziness*      | • Tremor           |  |
| • Headache*       |                    |  |

\*more common side effects

Note: often seen to improve mood and decrease depression

### How Do I Give The Medication?

- Chewable tablets can be swallowed whole, chewed, or put in water or juice.
- Give with food or milk to reduce stomach upset and/or to improve the taste if needed. Do not take with an antacid medication.
- Give your child the medication as close to the same time as possible each day and only the amount prescribed.
- If your child misses a dose, give the dose as soon as you remember or can. If the next dose of the medicine needs to be given in less than 4 hours, do **not** give the dose you forgot. Give the next dose a little earlier and then return to giving the medicine at the usual times after that.
- If your child vomits within 30 minutes of taking the medication, repeat the dose.
- If your child vomits after 30 minutes of taking the medication, do not repeat the dose.

### What Medications May Alter The Effectiveness Of This Drug?

The following drugs decrease the amount of time Lamotrigine is in your child's body.

- Carbamazepine (Tegretol)
- Phenobarbital (Phenobarb)
- Phenytoin (Dilantin)
- Primidone (Mysoline)
- Valproic Acid (Depakene, Epival) - increases the amount of time Lamotrigine is in your child's body.
- May decrease folate levels
- Acetaminophen ( Tylenol) may decrease Lamotrigine levels slightly

### When Do I Call My Health Care Provider?

Call your health care provider or go to your nearest emergency room if you are concerned about your child in any way. With Lamotrigine the following would be of concern.

- |                    |  |                             |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| • Red or sore eyes | • Become aggressive                              | • A rash                    |
| • Problems seeing  | • Unusual bleeding                               | • Unusual bruising          |
| • More seizures    | • Hallucinations (sees things that aren't there) | • Tiny purple spots on skin |
- **\*\* Please seek emergency care if your child develops a rash and tell them that your child is taking Lamotrigine.**

### What Are The Available Forms And Dosages?

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| • 2 mg Chewable Tablet | • 100 mg Tablet |
| • 5 mg Chewable Tablet | • 150 mg Tablet |
| • 25 mg Tablet         |                 |