

ANTIEPILEPTIC MEDICATION SIDE-EFFECTS

Below is a list of the possible side-effects of antiepileptic medication.

Medication	Side-effects	Seizure type medication is commonly used for	Interactions
Carbamazepine (Tegretol, Teril)	Drowsiness, unsteadiness, nausea, double or blurred vision, skin rash	Partial or generalised	Lamotrigine Oral contraceptive Others
Sodium Valproate (Epilem, Valpro)	Sedation, weight gain, tremor, nausea, hair loss, liver damage, polycystic ovaries	Drug of choice for generalised seizures, absence and myoclonic, also used in partial seizures	Lamotrigine Phenobarbitone Tegretol Others
Phenytoin (Dilantin)	Excessive hair growth, gum swelling, drowsiness, dizziness, rash, acne, sedation, unsteadiness	Partial or generalised	Multiple Oral contraceptive
Lamotrigine Lamictal	Skin rash, unsteadiness, dizziness, double vision, nausea	Partial or generalised	Epilem Dilantin Tegretol
Vigabatrin Sabril	Peripheral vision loss, depression, psychosis, mood changes	Infantile spasms, add-on therapy for partial or generalised seizures	
Gabapentin Neurontin, Gantin, Pendine	Dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue	Partial	Few
Topiramate Topamax	Drowsiness, dizziness, weight loss, slowing of speech, kidney stones	Partial (generalised add-on therapy)	Dilantin Tegretol Phenobarbitone Oral contraceptive
Tiagabine Gabatril	Agitation, dizziness, drowsiness	Partial (add-on therapy)	Dilantin Tegretol Phenobarbitone
Clonazepam Rivotril	Sedation, unsteadiness, behaviour disturbances, dependence	Partial and generalised (especially myoclonic & absence)	
Ethosuximide Zarontin	Nausea, vomiting, weight loss, diarrhea, drowsiness, headache, dizziness, mood changes	Absence seizures only	
Levetiracetam Keppra	Sedation, dizziness, infection, weakness	Partial and generalised	
Oxcarbazepine (Trileptal)	Fatigue, dizziness, headache, sedation, nausea, vomiting, double vision	Partial and generalised	Dilantin Tegretol Phenobarbitone Oral contraceptive
Phenobarbitone	Severe sedation, hyperactivity in children, cognitive impairment	Partial and generalised	

References: 1. Epilepsy: The Comprehensive CD ROM. Lippincott Williams and Wilkins 1999. 2. Current Therapeutics 2001

This information is given to provide accurate, general information about epilepsy. Medical information and knowledge changes rapidly and you should consult your doctor for more detailed information. This is not medical advice and you should not make any medication or treatment changes without consulting your doctor.