

ETHOSUXIMIDE

ZARONTIN[®]



KK WOMEN'S
AND CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

Patient Information Leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about ethosuximide. It does not contain all the available information. It also does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

What is ethosuximide used for?

Ethosuximide is used to control seizures and other problems related to the nervous system.

When should I take the medication?

- Ethosuximide is usually taken 1 to 2 times a day. The doctor may start your child on a low dose and then slowly increase the dose. Follow the instructions on the label carefully and ask your pharmacist or doctor if you are unsure.
- Do not take this medication more often than directed and do not stop unless instructed by your doctor. Stopping this medicine too rapidly can increase the risk of seizures or fits.
- Do not change brands or dosage forms without informing your doctor.

How should it be taken?

□ Oral liquid form

Shake well before using. Use a medicine spoon or the graduated syringe provided to measure your medicine. Do not use household spoons as they may not be accurate.

□ Capsule form

Swallow the capsule whole with a glass of water. Ethosuximide can be taken with or without food.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

- Take the dose as soon as you remember and then continue to take it as you normally would. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose at the usual time.
- Do not double or increase the dose.
- If your child has missed more than two doses or you are not sure of what to do, consult your doctor or pharmacist.
- If your child has less than two weeks medication supplies, please ensure that you have made an appointment with your child's neurologist or arrangement to collect more medication.

What side effects can this medicine cause? What can I do about them?

Generally, the common side effects tend to occur at the beginning of treatment. Such side effects may include:

- Mild nausea, vomiting, indigestion, abdominal pain, diarrhea, loss of appetite and weight loss
If the medicine upsets the stomach, take it with food or milk.
- Drowsiness, headache, dizziness, hiccups, behavioural changes (e.g. irritability, mood change, aggressiveness)
Be careful when giving any over-the-counter medicines to your child. Medicines for allergy or cold symptoms can add on to the drowsiness. Be sure to supervise your child when he/she is involved in activities such as cycling or swimming.
- Poor muscle coordination

Inform your doctor if any of the above side effects lasts more than a few days or become severe and bothersome.

Rare but serious side effects may manifest as the following symptoms. Contact your doctor as soon as possible, if you notice any of the following:

- Skin rash
- Sore throat, fever, sores in the mouth, or easy bruising
- Fever, rash, joint swelling, swelling at neck and armpits
- Worsening or unusual behavioural changes

Inform your doctor if you notice any other unusual symptoms in your child. Always discuss with your doctor or pharmacist if your child has any problems or difficulties during or after taking ethosuximide.

Special instructions:

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you want to give any other medicines, supplements or herbal products to your child.

If your child sees another doctor, inform him that your child is taking ethosuximide before he prescribes any other medications.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist (63941500 / 1501) if you need more information.

Patient information project of Pediatric Neurology Service and Pharmacy