

## What is this medicine for?

Lamotrigine is used as a mood stabilizer (to help with mood swings) in bipolar disorder.

It can also help control some types of seizures (fits) in the treatment of epilepsy.

This medicine may also be used for other conditions, check with your doctor.

## Before using this medicine:

Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had heart, kidney, liver disease or thalassemia.

**FOR WOMEN: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.**

## How to use this medicine?

Follow the directions on your medicine label and take the medicine exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor.

Continue to take this medicine regularly every day even if you feel well. Do not stop taking it suddenly without first checking with your doctor, otherwise your condition may worsen.

## Precautions while taking this medicine:

- Lamotrigine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Do not drive or operate machinery if affected. Avoid alcoholic drinks.

- Oral contraceptives may reduce the effectiveness of Lamotrigine. Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you plan to start or stop use of oral contraceptives or other female hormonal preparations, or if you experience changes in pattern of menses while taking Lamotrigine with these medications.
- When you take Lamotrigine with some other medicines, it may affect how they work. Be sure that you tell all doctors, pharmacists, dentists and other health care providers who treat you about all medicines and natural remedies you are taking.

## WARNING:

Skin rash may be a sign of a serious unwanted side effect. Severe, even fatal, rashes (including Stevens-Johnson syndrome) have occurred while using Lamotrigine, especially in children.

**Check with your doctor immediately if you develop a skin rash.**

## What should I do if I forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is more than half way between the doses, skip the missed dose and take your medicine at the usual time.

**Do not take two or more doses at the same time to make up for a missed one.**

## Possible Side Effects

Like all medications, this medication may also cause some POSSIBLE side effects in some people. Everyone responds differently to medications; so not everyone experiences any or all of them.

### COMMON (Generally affect up to 10% of patients)

***Most of these side effects below will get better or go away completely with continued medication taking as your body gets used to this medication. Contact your doctor or pharmacist should they become too bothersome to you.***

- ~ Dizziness,
- ~ Headache
- ~ Drowsiness
- ~ Loss of balance or coordination
- ~ Blurred or double vision
- ~ Nausea or vomiting, loss of appetite, weight loss
- ~ Stomach upset
- ~ Diarrhoea or Constipation
- ~ Runny nose, blocked nose, itching and sneezing

## **FOR URGENT ATTENTION**

**Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you have any of the following:**

- ~ Skin rash
- ~ Fever or chills, flu-like symptoms, sore throat
- ~ Swelling in the face, lips or other parts of the body
- ~ Difficulty in breathing
- ~ Increase in seizures
- ~ Unusual bleeding and bruising
- ~ Stiff neck
- ~ Dark urine, yellowing of skin or eye

**If you have any concerns about your medications or if you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, please consult with your doctor or pharmacist.**

## **Where should I store the medicine?**

Store this medicine at room temperature, away from direct light, heat and moisture (not in the bathroom) and out of reach of children.

Throw away any medication that is expired or no longer needed. Talk to your pharmacist about the proper disposal of your medication.

***Do not share the medicine with other people.***

***Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information or if you have any questions.***



***Patient Information Leaflet on***

# **LAMOTRIGINE**

## **Institute of Mental Health**

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***For medication enquiries: (during office hours)***

IMH Clinic B/ Sayang Wellness Pharmacy: 63892077

IMH Clinic C (NAMS) Pharmacy: 63893666

Community Wellness Centre Pharmacy: 64715797

Geylang Behavioural Medicine Pharmacy: 67461724

Child Guidance Clinic (HPB) Pharmacy: 64353807

Child Guidance (Sunrise Wing) Pharmacy: 63892410

Email: [enquiry@imh.com.sg](mailto:enquiry@imh.com.sg)

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