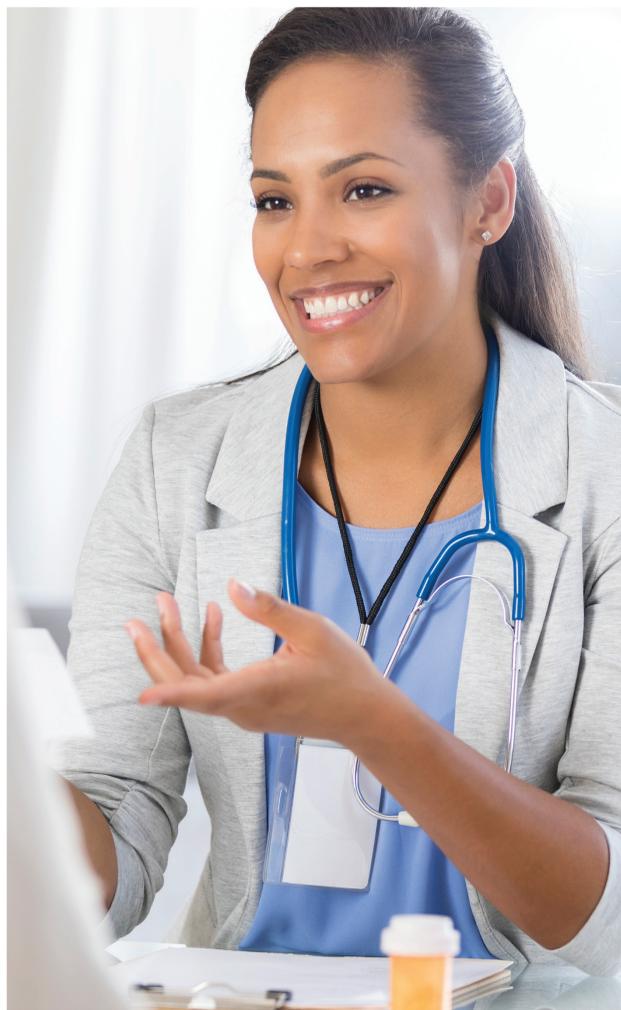


## TAKING CONTROL

There are several important things people with epilepsy can do to give their treatment the best chance at success.

- Take your medication regularly.
- Learn about your medication. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about the medication and possible side effects.
- Do not change the dose without consulting your doctor. Too much medication may lead to side effects. Too little medication may increase your seizures.
- Do not stop taking your medication abruptly. This can result in a dramatic increase in your seizures.
- Never mix large amounts of alcohol with medication. Ask your doctor if it would be safe for you to consume small amounts of alcohol.
- Be cautious when starting a new medication or making a major change in dosage. Do not drive until you know how the new drug or different dose affects you.
- Know the name, strength, and dosage of your medication. Write it down so you can refer to it.
- Remember to tell all your doctors, as well as dentists and pharmacists, that you are taking an anti-epileptic medication. It is a good idea to bring all your medication bottles with you to doctor visits.

**It is not the intention of this guide to give specific medical advice, but rather to provide users with information to better understand their options. Always discuss changes in medication with your doctor.**



*HELPING THOSE WITH EPILEPSY  
REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL*



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# Anti-Seizure Medication Guide



## EPILEPSY MEDICATION

This chart is designed to help people with epilepsy (seizure disorders) become more familiar with the medications they are taking. This chart lists the most commonly prescribed medications for seizure management; not all seizure medication is included in this list. Generic versions of drugs may look physically different than brand name drugs.

The list of side effects is not complete because of space limitations. For a complete list, consult your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. If you are unhappy with your level of seizure control or are having unpleasant side effects from medication, don't assume you have to put up with it. Talk to your doctor and ask about other medications or treatments which may be more appropriate for you.

Any change in physical or mental health in someone taking these medications should be reported promptly to your doctor. If you have been missing doses or having side effects, say so. It's very important that you are honest with your doctor so they can help you. Questions about use during pregnancy should be discussed with your doctor.



GENERIC	BRAND NAME	COMMON USES	POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS (MAJORITY OF INDIVIDUALS DON'T EXPERIENCE SIDE EFFECTS)
acetazolamide	Diamox® Sequels®	Various seizure types	Appetite loss, frequent urination, drowsiness, confusion, numbness of extremities, kidney stones
brivaracetam	Briviact®	Focal seizures	Dizziness, sleepiness, fatigue, mood changes
carbamazepine	Tegretol®, Carbatrol®, Tegretol® XR, Equetro®	Focal and generalized seizures	Dizziness, drowsiness, blurred or double vision, nausea, skin rashes, abnormal blood counts (rare)
clobazam	Onfi®	Various seizure types	Fatigue, lethargy, insomnia, unsteadiness, changes in behavior, changes in appetite
clonazepam	Klonopin®	Various seizure types	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes
clorazepate	Tranxene®	Various seizure types	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes
repository corticotropin injection	HP Acthar® Gel	Epileptic spasms	Insomnia, weight gain, irritability, fluid retention, increased appetite
diazepam	Diastat Acudial™, Valium®	Various seizure types (not for daily, long-term use, but to stop episodes of prolonged or cluster seizures)	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes
divalproex sodium	Depakote®, Depakote ER®, Depakote® sprinkles	Various seizure types	Upset stomach, altered bleeding time, liver toxicity, hair loss, weight gain, tremor
eslicarbazepine acetate	Aptiom®	Focal seizures	Dizziness, drowsiness, nausea, headache, double vision, vomiting, fatigue, loss of coordination, rash
ethosuximide	Zarontin®	Absence seizures	Appetite loss, nausea, drowsiness, headache, dizziness, fatigue, rash, abnormal blood counts (rare)
felbamate	Felbatol®	Various seizure types	Anorexia, vomiting, insomnia, nausea, headache, liver and blood toxicity
gabapentin	Neurontin®, Gralise™, Horizant®	Focal seizures	Sleepiness, dizziness, clumsiness, fatigue, twitching, fluid retention, weight gain
lacosamide	Vimpat®	Various seizure types	Dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, double vision, unsteadiness, fatigue, tremor
lamotrigine	Lamictal®, Lamictal®ODT™, Lamictal XR®	Various seizure types	Dizziness, headache, blurred vision, clumsiness, fatigue, tremor, nausea, skin rash
levetiracetam	Keppra®, Keppra XR®	Various seizure types	Behavior changes, irritability, fatigue, dizziness, headache
lorazepam	Ativan®	Various seizure types (not for daily, long-term use, but to stop episodes of prolonged or cluster seizures)	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes. Sometimes prescribed for epilepsy but not FDA-approved for that use.
oxcarbazepine	Trileptal®, Oxtellar XR™	Focal and generalized seizures	Dizziness, drowsiness, nausea, headache, double vision, vomiting, fatigue, loss of coordination, rash
perampanel	Fycompa®	Focal and generalized seizures	Dizziness, headache, fatigue, loss of coordination, irritability, aggressive behavior
phenobarbital	Phenobarbital	Various seizure types	Drowsiness, irritability, hyperactivity (children), behavioral problems, difficulty concentrating, depression
phenytoin	Dilantin®, Phenytek®	Focal and generalized seizures	Poor coordination, insomnia, fatigue, nausea, rash, gum overgrowth, hairiness, thickening of features
pregabalin	Lyrica®	Focal and generalized seizures	Sleepiness, dizziness, clumsiness, fatigue, tremor, fluid retention, weight gain
primidone	Mysoline®	Various seizure types	Clumsiness, dizziness, appetite loss, fatigue, drowsiness, hyper-irritability, insomnia, depression, hyperactivity (children)
rufinamide	Banzel™	Various seizure types	Fatigue, vomiting, nausea, headache, poor coordination, dizziness, double vision
tiagabine	Gabitril®	Focal seizures	Nausea, dizziness, anxiety, insomnia, fatigue, tremor, difficulty with concentration
topiramate	Qudexy XR®, Topamax®, Trokendi XR™	Various seizure types	Confusion, sleepiness, dizziness, clumsiness, difficulty thinking or talking, tingling sensation of the skin, nausea, decreased appetite, kidney stones
valproic acid	Depakene®, Stavzor®	Various seizure types	Upset stomach, altered bleeding time, liver toxicity, hair loss, weight gain, tremor
vigabatrin	Sabril®	Focal and epileptic spasms	Visual issues, abnormal MRI's, fatigue, poor coordination, weight gain, behavioral changes
zonisamide	Zonegran®	Various seizure types	Sleepiness, dizziness, decreased appetite, headache, nausea, irritability, difficulty concentrating, unsteadiness, kidney stones, rash (should not be used in individuals allergic to sulfa drugs)