

## LAMOTRIGINE (LAMICTAL)

Lamotrigine is FDA approved for adjunctive therapy in the treatment of generalized seizures of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures, and partial seizures in adults and children  $\geq 2$  years of age; conversion to monotherapy in adults with partial seizures who are receiving treatment with valproic acid or a single enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drug (specifically carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital or primidone); maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder. Studies have suggested it may be useful in the treatment of chronic neuropathic pain.

Lamotrigine comes in mg tablets. The usual dose is 50-200 mg per day in divided doses. Like many of the other medications for this problem, it needs to be started at low dose and slowly raised. For Lamotrigine, this is especially important as the main frequent side-effect is rash.

If you find a dosage level that is satisfactory, there is no reason to increase the medication. If, after you have increased the medication, you find that the previous -- that is, lower--dose was just as effective, it would be better to use the lower dose.

DOSING SCHEDULE FOR LAMOTRIGINE 25 MG TABLETS					
	<b>Insert Dates</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>	<b>Daily Dose</b>	
Week One		None	1 tablet	25 mg	
Week Two		1 tablet	1 tablet	50 mg	
Week Three		2 tablets	1 tablet	75 mg	Call Office
Week Four		2 tablets	2 tablets	100 mg	
Week Five		3 tablets	2 tablets	125 mg	
Week Six		3 tablets	3 tablets	150 mg	Call Office
Week Seven		4 tablets	3 tablets	175 mg	
Week Eight		4 tablets	4 tablets	200 mg	Call Office

If you need to taper the medication, this must be done over two weeks.

If you have either impaired kidney function or impaired liver function, please check with your doctor before taking this medication.

No blood monitoring is needed if you take Lamotrigine.

More information is available at [www.lamictal.com](http://www.lamictal.com).

**LAMOTRIGINE (By mouth)**  
**Lamotrigine (la-MOE-tri-jeen)**

**Treats certain types of seizures and mood disorders. Often used along with other medicines.**

**Brand Name(s): Lamictal, Lamictal CD**

There may be other brand names for this medicine.

**When This Medicine Should Not Be Used:**

You should not use this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to lamotrigine.

**How to Use This Medicine:**

**Tablet, Chewable Tablet**

- Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use and how often. Do not use more medicine or use it more often than your doctor tells you to.
- You may take this medicine with or without food.
- Swallow the **tablet** whole. Do not crush, break, or chew it.
- The **chewable tablet** may be swallowed whole, or chewed and taken with a small amount of water or diluted fruit juice. You may also dissolve the chewable tablet in a teaspoon of water or fruit juice and swallow the mixture after 1 minute.
- This medicine comes with patient instructions. Read and follow these instructions carefully. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.
- Your doctor may need to check your blood at regular visits while you are using this medicine. Be sure to keep all appointments.

**If a dose is missed:**

- If you miss a dose or forget to use your medicine, use it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to use the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

**How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine:**

- Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.
- Keep all medicine away from children and never share your medicine with anyone.
- Ask your pharmacist, doctor, or health caregiver about the best way to dispose of any outdated medicine or medicine no longer needed.

**Drugs and Foods to Avoid:**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.**

- Make sure your doctor knows if you are using any other medicine to control seizures, such as carbamazepine, divalproex, oxcarbazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, primidone, valproic acid, valproate, Depakene®, Depakote®, Dilantin®, Mysoline®, or Tegretol®. Make sure your doctor knows if you are also using rifampin (Rimactane®, Rifadin®). Tell your doctor if you are also using birth control pills, or if you are also using hormone replacement therapy.

- Ask your doctor before you start or stop using any medicines, including birth control pills and hormone replacement therapy.
- Make sure your doctor knows if you are receiving methotrexate or pemetrexed (Alimta®).

**Warnings While Using This Medicine:**

- Make sure your doctor knows if you are pregnant or breast feeding, or if you have liver problems, heart problems, or kidney problems.
- This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid driving, using machines, or doing anything else that could be dangerous if you are not alert.
- Do not stop using this medicine suddenly without asking your doctor. You may need to slowly decrease your dose before stopping it completely.
- If you have a skin rash while using this medicine, call your doctor right away. Sometimes a rash is a sign of a serious drug reaction.
- If your symptoms do not improve or if they get worse, call your doctor.
- Your doctor will need to check your progress at regular visits while you are using this medicine. Be sure to keep all appointments.

**Possible Side Effects While Using This Medicine:**

**Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:**

- Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing.
- Blistering, peeling, red skin rash.
- Bloody stools.
- Blurred or double vision.
- Changes in your menstrual cycle (period).
- Chest pain.
- Extreme weakness, dizziness, or fainting.
- Fever, swollen glands.
- Painful sores in your mouth or around your eyes.
- Pain, soreness, or itching in your vagina.
- Thoughts of killing yourself.

**If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:**

- Body aches.
- Eye twitching, or eye movements you cannot control.
- Feeling unusually sleepy, sad, grouchy, moody, or nervous.
- Unable to sleep, or sleeping too much.
- Headache, neck pain, back pain, or joint pain.
- Increased sexual desire.
- Loss of appetite, or weight loss.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach upset, stomach pain, or gassiness.
- Nose bleed.
- Painful urination, or a change in how much or how often you urinate.
- Problems with coordination, or shaking or tremor.
- Problems talking, dry mouth, or sore throat.
- Runny or stuffy nose, or nose irritation.
- Swelling in your face, hands, ankles, or feet.
- Trouble breathing, wheezing, or coughing.
- Unable to concentrate or remember things.

**If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.**

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