

# Information Sheet for Patient using Topiramate (Topamax) in Migraine Attacks

Topiramate is a licensed preventative medication for migraine which is found to be effective in a significant proportion of patients. Topiramate belongs to a group of medications that are used to treat epilepsy.

## Side effects

As with all medications, there are potential side effects in a small number of patients. The most often reported effects are: tiredness, pins and needles in the fingers and toes, dizziness, lowered sense of feeling in the skin, difficulty with language, nausea, diarrhoea, indigestion, dry mouth, weight loss, decrease in appetite, drowsiness, forgetfulness, difficulty with concentration or attention, difficulty in sleeping (insomnia), anxiety, mood swings, depression, changes in taste and vision disorders.

Rarely, sudden blurring of vision, pain and redness of the eyes has occurred, in both adults and children, typically during the first month of starting Topiramate. This can indicate raised pressure within the eye (glaucoma). If you develop any eye symptoms, particularly in the first few weeks of treatment, you should tell your doctor immediately.

## Who cannot take Topiramate?

You should not take Topiramate if you have:

- A history of glaucoma
- A history of renal stones
- Ongoing depression. Caution should be exercised if there is a history of depression as it can make this problem worse.

## Pregnancy and breast feeding

Topiramate is not recommended if you are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or are breast feeding. Women of child bearing age should take adequate contraceptive precautions. Topiramate is an enzyme-inducer and the implants and all tablets will not be effective. The only recommended contraception is Depo Provera or coil. However, if the person has a progesterone implant and wishes to undertake a short trial of Topiramate, it is acceptable to use additional methods, such as condom, to provide an additional degree of safety in the short term.

## Dosage

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	25mg	
<b>Week 2</b>	25mg	25mg
<b>Week 3</b>	25mg	2 x 25mg
<b>Week 4 and onwards</b>	50mg	50mg

The maximum dose that can be tolerated should be used for 4 months to assess benefit of effect. In some cases the GP will increase the dose slightly above these levels if there is an indication of a response.

There are no significant drug-drug interactions with Sumatriptan, Propranolol, Pizotifen, Amitriptyline and Dihydroergotamine. There may be interactions with Digoxin, Metformin and thiazide derivatives but the clinical significance of these interactions is not clear.

This leaflet is intended to provide a brief overview of aspects of this treatment protocol. It is not intended as a substitute for the comprehensive 'product information' leaflet found inside all boxes of medication. The 'product information' leaflet should always be read before taking medication. **Your prescribing doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of the medication as it relates to you and answer any further questions you may have.**