

# lamotrigine

Pronunciation: la MOE tri geen

Brand: Lamictal

## What is the most important information I should know about lamotrigine?



In rare cases, lamotrigine has been associated with severe and/or life-threatening rashes and hypersensitivity reactions. Seek emergency medical attention or contact your doctor immediately if you develop a rash; fever; hives; swelling of the lips, tongue, or face; sores in the mouth or around the eyes; or swollen lymph glands.



Seek emergency medical attention or contact your doctor immediately if you experience worsening of seizures during treatment with lamotrigine.



Do not stop taking your medication without first talking to your doctor, even if you feel better. It is important to continue taking lamotrigine to prevent the seizures from recurring.

Carry or wear a medical identification tag to let others know that you are taking this medicine in the case of an emergency.



Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. Lamotrigine may cause dizziness or drowsiness. If you experience dizziness or drowsiness, avoid these activities.

## What is lamotrigine?

The exact way that lamotrigine works is unknown. However, it is believed that lamotrigine alters the chemical impulses in the brain that cause seizures.

Lamotrigine is used in the treatment of seizures.

Lamotrigine may also be used for purposes other than those listed in this medication guide.

## What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before taking lamotrigine?

Before taking lamotrigine, tell your doctor if you have heart, liver, or kidney disease. You may not be able to take lamotrigine, or you may require a dosage adjustment or special monitoring during treatment.



Lamotrigine is in the FDA pregnancy category C. This means that it is not known whether lamotrigine will be harmful to an unborn baby. Do not take this medication without first talking to your doctor if you are pregnant or could become pregnant during treatment.



Lamotrigine passes into breast milk and may affect a nursing infant. Do not take lamotrigine without first talking to your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

## How should I take lamotrigine?

Take lamotrigine exactly as directed by your doctor. If you do not understand these directions, ask your pharmacist, nurse, or doctor to explain them to you.



Take each oral dose of lamotrigine with a full glass of water.

The chewable dispersible tablets can be swallowed whole, chewed, or mixed in water or diluted fruit juice. If you chew these tablets, drink a small amount of water or diluted fruit juice to aid in swallowing. To disperse these tablets, add the tablet(s) to a small amount of liquid (1 teaspoon or enough to cover the medication) in a glass or spoon. Approximately 1 minute later, when the tablet is completely dispersed, mix the solution and take the entire amount immediately.

Lamotrigine can be taken with or without food or milk.

Carry or wear a medical identification tag to let others know that you are taking this medicine in the case of an emergency.



Do not take more of this medication than is prescribed by your doctor.

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Do not stop taking this medication without first talking to your doctor, even if you feel better. It is important to continue taking lamotrigine to prevent the seizures from recurring.

Store this medication at room temperature away from light and moisture.

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and take only the next regularly scheduled dose. **Do not** take a double dose of this medication.

## What happens if I overdose?



Seek emergency medical treatment.

Symptoms of a lamotrigine overdose include dizziness, drowsiness, headache, increased seizures, and unconsciousness.

## What should I avoid while taking lamotrigine?



Do not drink alcohol while taking lamotrigine. Alcohol may increase drowsiness caused by lamotrigine. It may also increase the risk of seizures.



Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. Lamotrigine may cause dizziness or drowsiness. If you experience dizziness or drowsiness, avoid these activities.

## What are the possible side effects of lamotrigine?



In rare cases, lamotrigine has been associated with severe and/or life-threatening rashes and hypersensitivity reactions. Seek emergency medical

attention or contact your doctor immediately if you develop a rash; fever; hives; swelling of the lips, tongue, or face; sores in the mouth or around the eyes; or swollen lymph glands.



Seek emergency medical attention or contact your doctor immediately if you experience worsening of seizures during treatment with lamotrigine.

- Other, less serious side effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take lamotrigine and talk to your doctor if you experience
- dizziness or drowsiness;
- blurred or double vision;
- nausea and vomiting;
- headache; or
- lack of coordination.

Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

## What other drugs will affect lamotrigine?

Lamotrigine interacts with many of the other drugs used to treat seizures. Before taking lamotrigine, tell your doctor about all other medications you are taking. You may require a dosage adjustment or special monitoring during treatment if you are taking a combination of medications to treat seizures.

Drugs other than those listed here may also interact with lamotrigine. Talk to your doctor and pharmacist before taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicines, including herbal products.

## Where can I get more information?

Your pharmacist has additional information about lamotrigine written for health professionals that you may read.

**Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.**

The information in this leaflet is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions, or adverse effects. If you have questions about the drugs you are taking, check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

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