

CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE

Lamotrigine 2 mg, 5 mg, 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg and 200 mg dispersible/chewable tablets

What is in this leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you take ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets.

This leaflet answers some common questions about ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets. It does not contain all of the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Sometimes new risks are found even when a medicine has been used for many years. Your doctor has weighed the expected benefits of you taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets against the risks this medicine could have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE is used for

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets are used for the treatment of epilepsy in adults and children aged 2 years and older.

Lamotrigine (the active ingredient in ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets) belongs to a group of medicines called "anti-epileptic drugs".

Epilepsy: Usually ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets are initially used in addition to other medicines for the treatment of epilepsy. ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE is used in partial or generalised seizures including Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome.

It is thought that ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets work by changing the levels of some chemicals associated with seizures.

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE is also used to prevent mood episodes in adults 18 years of age and over with bipolar disorder, predominantly by preventing depressive episodes.

Your doctor may have prescribed ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE has been prescribed for you.

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets are not addictive.

Before you take ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE

You must not take ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets if:

- you have ever had an allergic reaction to ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets (See "Side-Effects") or any of the ingredients listed toward the end of this leaflet. (See "Ingredients")
- the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.
- the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering

You must tell your doctor if:

- you are allergic to foods, dyes, preservatives or any other medicines.
- you have a history of allergy or rash to other antiepileptic drugs
- you are suffering, or have ever suffered, from any liver or kidney disorders
- you have Parkinson's disease
- if you have ever developed meningitis after taking lamotrigine
- you are taking any other medicines. This is particularly important for sodium valproate ("Epilim", "Valpro"). You are taking any form of hormonal contraceptive (e.g. "the pill") or HRT, other anti-epileptic drugs (eg carbamazepine or phenobarbitone) or medicines you buy without a prescription
- you are taking rifampicin, which is used to treat infections, including tuberculosis
- you are taking medicine which is used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection
- you are taking risperidone, a medicine used to treat bipolar disorder. You may be more likely to feel sleepy or drowsy when you take risperidone and lamotrigine together.
- you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE may affect your unborn baby if you take it during pregnancy, but it is still important that you control your seizures while you are pregnant. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE during pregnancy and help you decide whether or not you should take ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE.

It is recommended that women on antiepileptic drugs, such as ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE, receive pre-pregnancy counselling with regard to the risk on their unborn child.

Studies have shown a decrease in the levels of folic acid during pregnancy with lamotrigine therapy. It is therefore recommended that you take a folate supplement, e.g. 5 mg folate daily, before becoming pregnant and during the first 12 weeks of your pregnancy.

• you are breastfeeding

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE is thought to pass into breast milk.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets if you are breastfeeding.

How to take ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE

Using ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets for the first time

You may notice that you feel dizzy, tired, or unsteady in the first few weeks of treatment with ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets. During this period you may also notice that you have slight problems with your vision. As your reactions may be slower during this period you should not operate any machinery or appliances and you should not drive a car. If any of these effects do not go away or are troublesome you should see your doctor.

If you develop any skin rash (eg. spots or 'hives') during ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE treatment contact your doctor immediately.

There are reports of skin rash associated with lamotrigine treatment. Some of these may be serious and cause severe illness.

If you have any questions about taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How much to take

Take ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. Never change the dose yourself. Do not increase the dose more quickly than you have been told.

Your doctor and pharmacist will be able to tell you:

- how many tablets to take at each dose
- how many doses to take each day
- when to take each of your doses

The label on the container that the tablets were supplied in will give the same information. If there is something that you do not understand, ask either your doctor or pharmacist.

It is usual for the dose of ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets to start at quite a low level and be slowly increased during the first few weeks of treatment. The doses that your doctor prescribes will generally depend on any other anti-epileptic medications you are taking for the treatment of epilepsy and your response to ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets.

Hormonal contraceptives (such as the birth control pill) and ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets: Most people need a higher maintenance dose of ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets when they take hormonal contraceptives, so if you are taking these, your doctor may increase your dose. Your doctor will usually decrease your dose once you stop taking hormonal contraceptives.

You should tell your doctor if there are any changes in your menstrual pattern, such as breakthrough bleeding.

Your doctor may need to change the dose of ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE during your pregnancy.

How to take it

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets may be swallowed whole, chewed or dispersed in a small volume of water (at least enough to cover the whole tablet).

How long to take it for

Do not stop taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets, or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

Use in children

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE is not recommended for treatment of epilepsy in children under 2 years of age.

Epilepsy:

Children's weight should be checked and the dose reviewed as weight changes occur.

What do I do if I take too much? (Overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to the Accident or Emergency department at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too many ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets, even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

If too many ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets have been taken it is likely that the following symptoms will be experienced: nausea, vomiting, tiredness/drowsiness and problems with eyesight, twitching, impaired consciousness and coma.

While you are taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE

Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to tell you whether there are any special instructions while you are taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets.

Things you must do

If you develop any skin rash (eg. spots or 'hives') during ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE treatment contact your doctor immediately.

There are reports of serious skin rash with ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE that may need hospital treatment or drug withdrawal; rarely serious skin rash may cause death.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets if you are about to be started on any new medicines.

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE may interfere with some laboratory tests to detect other drugs. If you require a laboratory test, tell your doctor or hospital that you are taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Talk to your doctor as soon as possible if you are pregnant, or if you are planning to become pregnant. There may be an increased risk of babies developing a cleft lip or cleft palate if ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets is taken during the first few months of pregnancy.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed. The active ingredient of ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE passes into breast milk and may affect your baby. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of breastfeeding while you are taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as directed.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the one you have missed.

Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not working as it should and change your treatment unnecessarily.

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets just because you feel better.

Epilepsy: If you stop taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets suddenly your epilepsy may come back or become worse. This is known as "rebound seizures".

Your doctor will advise you if you need to stop taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets and how.

If you are unsure whether you should stop taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Do not use ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets to treat any other complaints unless your doctor says to.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets affect you.

As with other anticonvulsant medicines for the treatment of epilepsy ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE may cause dizziness and drowsiness in some people, and affect alertness.

Make sure you know how you react to ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or light-headed. If this occurs do not drive. If you drink alcohol, dizziness or light-headedness may be worse.

Children should not ride a bike, climb trees or do anything else that could be dangerous if they are feeling dizzy or sleepy.

Side effects

Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you think you are experiencing any side effects or allergic reactions due to taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets, even if the problem is not listed below.

Like other medicines, ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets can cause some side-effects. If they occur, they are most likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious and need medical attention.

The most commonly reported side-effects are:

- dizziness/unsteadiness
- rash
- headache
- drowsiness/tiredness or feeling sleepy
- feeling sick, also called nausea
- vomiting
- feeling weak
- double vision, blurred vision
- rapid, uncontrollable movements of the eyes
- tremor (shakiness)
- trouble sleeping
- loss of memory
- confusion
- irritability/aggression
- agitation
- increased activity in children
- joint or back pain
- diarrhoea

Other reported side effects include:

- liver problems
- movement problems such as tics, unsteadiness and jerkiness
- hallucinations

Some people may have changes in their blood count, which may make them feel tired, short of breath and more susceptible to infections. They may also bleed or bruise very easily or have mouth ulcers or a sore throat.

In general these side effects usually happen only during the first few weeks of treatment with ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE. If any of these side effects persist, or are troublesome, see your doctor.

Anti-epileptic medicines are used to treat several conditions, including epilepsy and bipolar disorder. Information from a large number of studies in patients being treated with anti-epileptic medicines such as ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE has shown a small number of reports of suicidal behaviour (including suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts).

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- suicidal thoughts
- suicide attempts

Tell your Doctor immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency department of your nearest hospital if you have any thoughts of harming yourself or committing suicide.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- any skin reaction (e.g. rash or 'hives')
- swelling of the face, lips or tongue
- sore mouth or sore eyes
- a high temperature (fever)
- swollen glands
- drowsiness
- easy bruising or unusual bleeding
- yellow skin (jaundice)

If you are taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE for epilepsy, rarely, you may start to experience more seizures than usual. Tell your doctor as soon as possible if your seizures get worse or if you have a new type of seizure

These are all very serious side effects and you may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Serious side effects are rare.

Another rare side effect is "Lupus-like reactions" which may present as a collection of symptoms consisting of fever, pain in the joints and general ill-health.

A very rare side effect is meningitis which may present as a group of symptoms consisting of fever, nausea, vomiting, headache, stiff neck and extreme sensitivity to bright light. This may be caused by an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord.

If you think you are having an allergic reaction to ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets, TELL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY or go to the Accident or Emergency department at your nearest hospital. Symptoms usually include some or all of the following:

- wheezing
- swelling of the lips/mouth
- difficulty in breathing
- hay fever
- lumpy rash ("hives")
- fainting

Tell your doctor if you are female and your menstrual periods change.

This is not a complete list of all possible side-effects. Others may occur in some people and there may be some side-effects not yet known.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything in this list.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side-effects. You may not experience any of them.

After taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE

Storage

Keep ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Keep ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Protect tablets from light and moisture.

Keep your tablets in the packs until it is time to take them. If you take the tablets out of the pack, they may not keep well.

Do not store ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE or other medicines in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave the tablets in the car or on window sills. Heat, light and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE, or your tablets have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any tablets that are left over.

Product description

What ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE looks like

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE is available in 6 different strengths of tablets:

- 2 mg - white to off-white, round tablet embossed with 'LI' over '2' on one side and 'D' on the other side
- 5 mg - white to off-white, oval tablet, embossed with 'LI|5' on one side and 'D' on the other side
- 25 mg - white to off-white, shield-shaped tablet, embossed with 'D' over 'LI25' on one side and a scoreline on the other side
- 50 mg - white to off-white, shield-shaped tablet, embossed with 'D' over 'LI50' on one side and a scoreline on the other side

- 100 mg - white to off-white, shield-shaped tablet, embossed with '⤵' over 'LI100' on one side and a scoreline on the other side
- 200 mg - white to off-white, shield-shaped tablet, embossed with '⤵' over 'LI200' on one side and a scoreline on the other side

All strengths of ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets are available in blister packs of 56 tablets.

Ingredients

The active ingredient in ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE tablets is lamotrigine:

- each ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE 2 tablet contains 2 mg of lamotrigine
- each ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE 5 tablet contains 5 mg of lamotrigine
- each ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE 25 tablet contains 25 mg of lamotrigine
- each ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE 50 tablet contains 50 mg of lamotrigine
- each ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE 100 tablet contains 100 mg of lamotrigine
- each ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE 200 tablet contains 200 mg of lamotrigine

The tablets also contain:

- mannitol
- microcrystalline cellulose
- croscarmellose sodium
- colloidal anhydrous silica
- povidone
- saccharin sodium
- purified talc
- magnesium stearate
- blackcurrant flavour

The tablets do not contain gluten, lactose, sucrose, tartrazine or any azo dyes.

Supplier

ARROW - LAMOTRIGINE is distributed in New Zealand by:

Teva Pharma (New Zealand) Limited

PO Box 128 244

Remuera

Auckland 1541

Telephone: 0800 800 097

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