

Parent and Carer's Information Leaflet

Vigabatrin

(also called Sabril)

For further advice:

Children's Epilepsy Nurse Specialists:

Derby Rachael Wheway

☎ 01332 785103

Mansfield Kirsten Johnson

☎ 01623 622515 ext 6178

Nottingham Catie Picton & Ann Brown

☎ 0115 9249924 ext 63328

Leicester

☎ 0116 2586908

CEWT website

www.cewt.org.uk

Epilepsy Action Website:

www.epilepsy.org.uk

Vigabatrin

(also called Sabril)

Vigabatrin is a medicine which is used in the treatment of infantile spasms (West syndrome) and is occasionally used for other epilepsies e.g. with Tuberous Sclerosis (TS).

Vigabatrin is available in tablet form (500mg per tablet) or as a powder in a sachet (500mg per sachet), which dissolves completely in water, juice or milk. Tablets can be crushed or dispersed in water or soft food (e.g. yoghurt)

How do I use it?

- It is usually taken once or twice a day.
- If a dose of vigabatrin is forgotten and you remember later that day, the dose is taken then. If you only remember the missed dose the next day, do not give extra, just give the next day's vigabatrin as planned.
- If your child vomits within 15 minutes of taking a dose, give the dose again. If your child vomits after 15 minutes of taking the dose, then **do not** give it again.
- When using the soluble Vigabatrin you will see a fine white powder left behind: this is not the active vigabatrin and does not need to be swallowed.
- Once water, juice or milk is added the sachets should be used immediately.

The medicine is at the correct dosage when your child is free from seizures or convulsions (fits) and has no side effects. There is no need to measure the level of vigabatrin in the blood.

If your child has been taking it regularly, **do not stop it suddenly** as this could bring on a fit or convulsion.

Use with other medicines?

Most other medicines (tablets or liquid medicines) including antibiotics, Paracetamol (Calpol) and anticonvulsants can be used with Vigabatrin. Vigabatrin does not reduce the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill.

Keep a seizure diary if you can and remember to always bring all the medicines with you to clinic appointments.

What are the common side effects?

Vigabatrin is a safe anticonvulsant medicine with very few side effects. If you are concerned about any side effects discuss with your doctor or nurse.

1. Drowsiness and lethargy may occur in the first couple of weeks as the medicine is introduced. If these symptoms do not go away after the third week, you should contact your doctor or nurse.
2. An increase in appetite and weight gain may also occur but this is uncommon.
3. Nausea and vomiting together with loss of appetite and abdominal pain may occur but this is uncommon.
4. Occasionally, confusion, memory disturbance or irritability and restlessness may occur after some weeks or months of treatment.
5. Vigabatrin taken for more than 6 months can cause visual field defects e.g. tunnel vision in about a third of patients. For this reason vigabatrin is often used for less than 6 months at a time.

For further information refer to the manufacturer's leaflet.