

Parent and Carer's Information Leaflet

Levetiracetam

(also called Keppra)

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Levetiracetam (also called Keppra)

Levetiracetam (pronounced “lev-ee-tear-a-see-tam”) is a medicine used in Epilepsy to control partial and secondary generalized, myoclonic and other seizures.

Levetiracetam is available either as a tablet containing:

- 250mg (blue)
- 500mg (yellow)
- 750mg (orange)
- 1000mg (white)

Or as an oral solution; Grape flavoured:
100mg in 1ml.

How do I use it?

- Levetiracetam is usually taken twice a day
- Tablets should be taken with a drink (milk, juice) because this makes the tablets easier to swallow.
- The oral solution can be taken undiluted or mixed with fruit juice or yoghurt
- Levetiracetam may be taken with or without food.
- If a dose is forgotten and you remember up to four hours after missing the dose, give the forgotten dose when you can.
- If you remember only at or near the time the next dose is due, just give your child the usual dose. **Do not** give any extra Levetiracetam.
- If your child vomits within 15 minutes of taking a dose, give the dose again; if your child vomits after 15 minutes after taking the dose, then **do not** give it again.

The medicine is at the correct dosage when your child has stopped having seizures (fits) and has no side effects. It is not normally necessary to measure blood levels.

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

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

Use with Other Medicines?

Levetiracetam has not generally been found to cause problems with other antiepileptic treatments or other medicines. It has not been shown to reduce the effect of oral contraceptives.

Always let your doctor know about all the medication you take.

What are the common side-effects?

Side effects may occur in some patients, but symptoms are generally mild or moderately troublesome.

1. The commonest are drowsiness, fatigue and dizziness and these are mainly in the first 4 weeks and usually decrease over time.
2. Other rare side effects include insomnia, mood changes, nausea, vomiting and indigestion
3. Please tell your doctor (hospital doctor or GP) or specialist nurse if you experience any possible side effects, especially as Levetiracetam is quite a new drug.

For further information please refer to the manufacturer’s patient information leaflet.