

BRIVARACETAM



Other names

Briviact

Drug category

Broad spectrum anticonvulsant (binds SV2A protein)

Uses

Brivaracetam is used to treat focal seizures as add-on therapy.

Available forms

Tablets, liquid, IV injection (same dose as tablet if switching)

Some potential side-effects (inform your doctor if you think you have a serious side-effect)

Drowsiness, irritability, dizziness, mood change, reduced appetite

Rare: Aggression, psychosis

Not to be used if: Severe liver disease (unless dose reduced)

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Should avoid in pregnancy as likely increased risk of birth defects. Avoid during breastfeeding.

Interactions with other drugs

No severe interactions (British National Formulary, Jan 2019), but reduced effect with carbamazepine, phenytoin and St John's wort.

Monitoring

No need for regular monitoring unless liver disease suspected

How to use it

Day	Morning dose	Evening dose
Start date	Nil	25mg
2 weeks later	25mg	25mg
4 weeks later	25mg	50mg
6 weeks later	50mg	50mg
After 6 weeks	Continue same dose	Continue same dose

If the final dose does not help and you have no side-effects, then it can be increased to a higher dose, and this can be done by adding 25mg every 2 weeks but the maximum dose should be no more than 200mg in a day (100mg twice a day). If reducing it, do this in steps of 25mg every week until stopped.

This information is for guidance only. Always read the medicine information leaflet with any new medicine for full details.