

ETHOSUXIMIDE



Other names

Zarontin

Drug category

T-type calcium channel blocker (post-synaptic)

Uses

Ethosuximide is used to prevent absence seizures.

Available forms

Capsule (250mg), solution (50 mg/ml)

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

Common: Nausea, vomiting, hiccups, stomach upset (in 1 in 6)

Uncommon: Headaches, unsteadiness, rash, altered bowel habit

Rare: Pancytopenia (infections, bleeding, anaemia), severe skin reaction, drug-induced lupus

Not to be used if: Porphyria

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

No interaction with contraception. May increase the risk of birth defects in pregnancy. It may cause sedation or excitability in breastfed infants.

Interactions with other drugs

Isoniazid may increase drug levels.

Monitoring

Consider blood tests for full blood count and serum electrolytes

How to use it

Day	Morning dose	Evening dose
Start date	Nil	250mg
2 weeks later	250mg	250mg
4 weeks later	250mg	500mg
6 weeks later	500mg	500mg
After 6 weeks	Continue	Continue

In some people, 250mg twice a day is enough to stop absence seizures, in which case further increases are not needed. It can sometimes also be increased up to 1g twice a day if needed.

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