

LACOSAMIDE

Other names

Vimpat

Drug category

Atypical sodium channel blocker (increases slow inactivation)

Uses

Lacosamide is used for epilepsy with focal seizures and has been tried in neuropathic (nerve-related) pain.

Available forms

Tablet, liquid, IV injection (same dose for oral or IV)

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

Nausea, dizziness, unsteadiness, fatigue, headache, rash

Rare: Irregular heart rhythm, agitation

Not to be used if:

Irregular heart rhythm ('heart block')

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

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

Interactions with other drugs

Not known to have severe interactions with other drugs

Monitoring

ECG before starting drug

How to use it

Day	Morning dose	Evening dose	(Other drugs)
Start date	Nil	50mg	
2 weeks later	50mg	50mg	
4 weeks later	50mg	100mg	
6 weeks later	100mg	100mg	
After 6 weeks	Continue same dose	Continue same dose	

If 100mg twice daily 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 50mg every 2 weeks but the maximum dose should be no more than 400mg in a day (200mg twice a day). If reducing it, do this in steps of 50mg every week until stopped.

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