

PERAMPANEL

**Other names**

Fycompa

Drug category

Glutamate antagonist (AMPA receptors)

Uses

Perampanel is used for focal epilepsy as add-on therapy.

Available forms

Tablet (2/4/6/8/10/12 mg), liquid (0.5 mg/ml)

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

Nausea, unsteadiness, confusion, drowsiness, weight gain, irritability

Rare: Aggression, psychosis

Not to be used if: Severe liver or kidney disease

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Perampanel (if over 8mg/day) makes hormone-based contraception less likely to work and an alternative method should be used after medical advice. Should avoid in pregnancy as likely increased risk of birth defects. Avoid during breastfeeding.

Interactions with other drugs

Many interactions and effects occur both ways with phenytoin, carbamazepine and oxcarbazepine.

Monitoring

Blood tests every 3-12 months for full blood count, sodium, kidney and liver function. Drug level can be checked too for toxicity.

How to use it

Day	Evening dose	(Other drugs)
Start date	2mg	
4 weeks later	4mg	
8 weeks later	6mg	
12 weeks later	8mg	
After 12 weeks	Continue same dose	

If 8mg 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 2mg every 2 weeks but the maximum dose should be no more than 12mg in a day. If reducing it, do this in steps of 2mg every week until stopped.

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