

PRIMIDONE



Other names

Mysoline

Drug category

Barbiturate (GABA agonist)

Uses

Primidone is useful for all seizures except absence seizures and essential tremor

Available forms

Tablet (50/250 mg), liquid (25 mg/ml)

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

Drowsiness, dizziness, unsteadiness, nausea, blurred vision, severe rash

Long-term: Osteoporosis, Dupuytren contractures, withdrawal effects

Not to be used if:

Severe liver or kidney disease, severe respiratory depression

Acute porphyria

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Hormone-based contraception is less likely to work and an alternative method should be used. Should avoid in pregnancy as likely increased risk of birth defects (6-12%) and avoid before breastfeeding (causes drowsiness in baby).

Interactions with other drugs

Avoid alcohol. Folic acid reduces levels. Oxcarbazepine, phenytoin, valproate increase levels. Primidone may reduce levels of carbamazepine, lamotrigine, zonisamide, warfarin, antibiotics and others.

Monitoring

Consider blood tests for full blood count, sodium, kidney and liver function. Drug level can be checked too for toxicity. Consider vitamin D level.

How to use it

Day	Morning dose	Evening dose	(Other drugs)
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	

Do not switch between brands. Do not stop taking the drug suddenly.

If no benefit, then increase by 50mg every 2 weeks up to 250mg twice a day. It can be further increased up to a maximum of 750mg twice a day if tolerated.

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