

RUFINAMIDE



Other names

Banzel, Inovelon

Drug category

Triazole; prolongs sodium channel inactivation

Uses

Rufinamide is only used for add-on treatment of seizures in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

Available forms

Tablet (100/200/400 mg), solution (40 mg/ml)

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

Dizziness, drowsiness, headache, nausea, fatigue, infections, weight loss, vertigo, altered bowel habit

Rare: Severe rash, seizures

Not to be used if:

Short QT syndrome (drug shortens interval further)

Liver failure

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Rufinamide 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

Valproate increases rufinamide levels by 50%. Caution with digoxin.

Monitoring

Consider blood tests every 12 months for liver function

How to use it

Day	Morning dose	Evening dose
Start date	Nil	200mg
2 weeks later	200mg	200mg
4 weeks later	200mg	400mg
6 weeks later	400mg	400mg
After 6 weeks	Continue same dose	Continue same dose

If not taking sodium valproate, no benefit and no side-effects, then the dose can be increased by adding 200mg every 2 weeks up to a maximum dose of 900mg twice daily (<50kg weight), 1200mg twice daily (50-70kg) or 1600mg twice daily (>70kg).

If taking sodium valproate, then the dose can be increased at the same rate but must only be increased to 600mg twice daily (<50kg weight), 800mg twice daily (50-70kg), or 1100mg twice daily (>70kg).

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