



EPILEPSY & Medication

Levetiracetam (KEPPRA®)

Used for:

- Adjunctive therapy in the management of patients with epilepsy who are not satisfactorily controlled by conventional therapy. Levetiracetam, is not commonly prescribed to children.

Precautions:

- Refrain from activities requiring mental alertness or physical coordination (e.g. operating hazardous machines, driving), until your body adjusts to KEPPRA® and you are sure taking this drug would not adversely affect the performance of these tasks.
- If you are a female patient taking oral contraceptives, watch for irregular menstruation or spotting, and immediately report this to your doctor, as it may be an indication that your oral contraceptive is not working properly with an increased risk of becoming pregnant.

Possible side effects:

Depending on the individual, side effects may occur at varying degrees or not at all, including:

- Extreme sleepiness, tiredness, and weakness.
- Problems with muscle coordination (problems walking and moving)
- Mood and behaviour changes, such as aggression, anger, anxiety, apathy, depression, hostility and irritability. Some people may get psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations. Some people may get thoughts of suicide.
- The most common side effects with KEPPRA® are: sleepiness, weakness, dizziness and infection (common cold).
- Side effects can happen at any time, but occur most often within the first four weeks of taking the drug.

Allergic Reaction/Idiosyncratic

- Skin rash (if you notice a rash seek immediate medical help).

For Using Levetiracetam (KEPPRA®)

- KEPPRA® may be taken with or without food.
- Swallow the tablets whole. Do not chew or crush them.
- If your seizures worsen or you experience new types of seizures contact your doctor.



Drug Interactions:

- Levetiracetam is chemically unrelated to existing antiepileptic drugs. No interactions with other AEDs have been found.
- Levetiracetam was not found to influence the pharmacokinetics of other AEDs.
- Check with your doctor about possible interactions with oral contraceptives.
- Inform your doctor of any other medicines (prescription and non-prescription) or substances you are taking.

This material has been reviewed by the Ontario Drug Information and Research Centre and is offered to provide general information to the public. It is not intended to be taken as medical advice. Epilepsy Toronto and its advisors accept no liability. Consult your physician and/or neurologist with any questions you may have.

Daily Dose:

Dosage of KEPPRA® must be individualized according to renal function status.

Dose ranges of KEPPRA® is 1000 mg – 3000 mg per day

Usually taken twice a day, once in morning, and at night.

Can be taken with or without food.

Forms:

Tablets – 250 mg., 500 mg., 750 mg.

Missed Dose:

Try to take each dose at the scheduled time. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered. Do not take it if it is near the time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not “double-up” the dose to catch up. If you skip a whole day, inform your doctor.

Storage:

Store at room temperature (15 to 30°C), away from heat and light, and keep out of reach of children.

In Pregnancy:

- Women who are considering pregnancy should first consult their doctor
- Safety of KEPPRA® in pregnancy has not been established.
- KEPPRA® can pass into breastmilk and may harm your baby. Consult your physician before breastfeeding if you are taking this drug.

Warning:

KEPPRA® has not been approved for children under 16.

Abrupt withdrawal of any anti-epileptic medication may trigger status epilepticus, a potentially fatal condition of continued seizures without recovery. When there is a need for reduction, discontinuation or substitution of the medication, this should be done gradually and under the physician’s care. Never discontinue anti-epileptic medications or make changes in activities unless specifically advised to do so by an attending physician.