



EPILEPSY & Medication

Primidone (MYSOLINE®)

Used for:

- Simple and complex partial (psychomotor, temporal lobe) seizures
- Tonic-clonic (grand mal)
- Myoclonic seizures occasionally.

Precautions:

- Tell your doctor if you have a history of liver disease, kidney problems, asthma or other lung disease, or porphyria (as a group of medical disorders).
- Elderly patients should use caution.
- Avoid activities which requires mental alertness until you and your doctor agree that your current dosage does not make you drowsy.

Possible side effects:

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

- Drowsiness.
- Dizziness, vertigo.
- Loss of muscle coordination.
- Fatigue.
- Cognitive impairment.
- Loss of appetite.
- Nausea.
- Mood or mental change.
- Hyperirritability and hyperactivity, especially in children.
- Sexual problems.
- Connective tissue disorder.
- Long term use of high doses may lead to lower calcium levels in the body, rickets or bone pain

Allergic Reaction:

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



Tips For Using Primidone

- Side effects like dizziness and drowsiness may end after a period of adjustment.
- Taking the drug with or immediately after meals may help prevent stomach upset.
- Have your blood level monitored every 6 months.

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.

Drug Interactions:

- Primidone is gradually reduced to phenobarbital by the body, so may lead to increased levels of phenobarbital if taken with it.
- May reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives and steroids.
- May decrease the effects of phenytoin (Dilantin®), carbamazepine (Tegretol®), tricyclic anti-depressants, and oral anticoagulants like warfarin.
- Carbamazepine may lower primidone levels as well.
- Valproate may increase primidone levels.
- Monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors may lead to an increase of primidone levels.
- Inform your doctor and pharmacist of any other medicines (prescription and nonprescription) or substances you are taking.

Daily Dosage:

Adults - 750 to 1500 mg/day.

Children under 8 years - 10 to 25 mg/kg/day or 375 to 750 mg/day.

Regimen - Taken in three doses.

Forms:

Tablets – 125 and 250 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), protect from light heat and moisture and keep out of reach of children.

In Pregnancy:

- Anti-epileptic medications may slightly increase the risk of fetal abnormalities.
- Women who are considering pregnancy should first consult their doctor.
- Breastfeeding may not be recommended, as primidone is present in breast milk.

Warning:

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.