

Medications for Epilepsy

Antiepileptic Drug (AED) Generic Name (Brand Name)	Daily Dosage Range	Some Possible Side Effects (potentially serious side effects in bold)	Uses
Carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Tegretol, Tegretol XR)	Adult: 800 - 1200 mg Child: up to 1000 mg (if less than 6 yrs old, <35 mg./kg.)	dizziness, drowsiness, headache, blurred/double vision, nausea, impotence, abnormal blood counts, rash, liver damage, cardiac arrhythmias	partial seizures, secondarily generalized tonic clonic seizures [NOT for absence or myoclonic seizures]
Clobazam (ONFI, Frisium)	Adult: 10 - 30 mg Child: 5 - 30 mg	drowsiness, dizziness, poor coordination, drooling, restlessness, aggressiveness, dependence, withdrawal symptoms	Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome, all seizure types
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	Adult: 0.5 – 10 mg (epileptologists typically prescribe no more than 2 mg/day) Child: 0.01 – 0.2 mg/kg	drowsiness, dizziness, unsteadiness, memory/attention problems, irritability, hyperactivity (in children), depression, nausea, loss of appetite, blood or liver problems	absence seizures, myoclonic seizures, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, seizure clusters, prevention of seizures after auras, nocturnal seizures, seizures upon waking
Diazepam rectal gel (Diastat)	0.2 – 0.5 mg./kg	prolonged drowsiness	prolonged seizures; seizure clusters
Ethosuximide (Zarontin)	Adult: 500 - 1500 mg Child: 250 - 1500 mg	gastrointestinal symptoms (most common), drowsiness, headache, dizziness, fatigue, behavior changes, insomnia, nervousness, rash, abnormal blood counts	absence seizures [NOT for tonic clonic, myoclonic, or partial seizures]
Ezogabine* (Potiga)	Adult: 600 – 1200 mg	urinary retention or inability to empty the bladder, neuropsychiatric symptoms, dizziness, drowsiness, withdrawal seizures, psychosis, QT interval lengthening	partial onset seizures with or without secondary generalization

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Felbamate* (Felbatol)	Adult: 1200 – 3600 mg Child: 1200 mg	insomnia, nausea, headache, aplastic anemia, liver failure USE WITH CAUTION	partial and generalized seizures, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome
Gabapentin* (Neurontin)	Adult: 900 – 5400 mg Child: 25 – 100 mg/kg	sleepiness, dizziness, clumsiness, fatigue, aggression & hyperactivity (in children), weight gain	partial seizures with or without secondary generalization [NOT for primary generalized seizures]
Lacosamide* (Vimpat)	Adult: 100 – 400 mg Child: 1 – 200 mg	dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, double vision, sleepiness and fatigue, unsteadiness and shakiness, heart, liver, or blood abnormalities	partial seizures with or without secondary generalization
Lamotrigine* (Lamictal)	Adult: 100 – 700 mg Child: 1 – 200 mg	dizziness, headache, insomnia, blurred/double vision, nausea, clumsiness, drowsiness, tics, skin rash, severe skin conditions, severe hypersensitivity reactions	partial seizures; Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; absence seizures (in newly diagnosed children); generalized tonic clonic seizures; myoclonic seizures
Levetiracetam* (Keppra)	Adult: 1000 – 3000 mg Child: 10 – 40 mg/kg	Drowsiness, fatigue, poor coordination, dizziness, infection, irritability, behavioral abnormalities	partial seizures; myoclonic seizures; primary generalized tonic clonic seizures
Oxcarbazepine* (Trileptal)	Adult: 600 – 2400 mg Child: 6 – 51 mg/kg	fatigue, headache, sleepiness, difficulty concentrating, nausea, dizziness, double vision, , severe skin conditions, hypersensitivity reactions, salt depletion	partial seizures, secondarily generalized tonic clonic seizures [NOT for absence or myoclonic seizures]
Phenobarbital (Luminal, Solfoton)	Adult: 1.5 – 4 mg/kg Child: 2 – 8 mg/kg	drowsiness, irritability, hyperactivity (children), behavioral problems, difficulty concentrating, depression, hypersensitivity reactions	all types of seizures

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Phenytoin (Dilantin, Phenytek)	Adult: 200 – 600 mg Child: up to 300 mg	clumsiness, insomnia, confusion, drowsiness, slurred speech, nausea, rash, gum overgrowth, hairiness, vitamin deficiencies, thickening of features, severe skin problems, lupus	partial seizures, generalized tonic clonic seizures [NOT for absence seizures or infantile spasms]
Pregabalin* (Lyrica)	Adult: 150 – 600 mg Child: no established dosage range yet	dizziness, imbalance, drowsiness, no serious side effects yet reported	partial seizures; secondarily generalized seizures [NOT for primary generalized seizures]
Primidone (Mysoline)	Adult: 250 – 500 mg Child: up to 25 mg/kg	clumsiness, dizziness, nausea, fatigue, drowsiness, irritability, insomnia, depression, hyperactivity, difficulty thinking, hypersensitivity reactions	generalized tonic clonic seizures; partial seizures; juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
Rufinamide* (Banzel)	Adult: 400 – 3200 mg Child: 10 – 45 mg/kg	headache, dizziness, fatigue, drowsiness, double vision, tremor, hypersensitivity reactions; shortened QT interval	Lennox-Gastaut syndrome
Tiagabine* (Gabitril)	Adult: 32 – 56 mg Child: .5 – 2 mg/kg	tremor, dizziness, nervousness, difficulty concentrating, sleepiness, weakness, stupor	partial seizures; infantile spasms [may make non-convulsive generalized seizures worse]
Topiramate* (Topamax)	Adult: 200 – 400 mg. Child: up to 25 mg/kg	confusion, sleepiness, fatigue, dizziness, clumsiness, difficulty thinking or talking, decreased appetite/weight loss, kidney stones, glaucoma, psychosis	Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; partial seizures; generalized tonic clonic seizures; myoclonic seizures, infantile spasms

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Vigabatrin* (Sabril)	Adult: 2000 – 4000 mg Child: 50 mg/kg – 150 mg/kg	drowsiness, fatigue, rash, psychosis, irreversible vision impairment in 25% of patients USE WITH CAUTION	infantile spasms (most effective in patients with tuberous sclerosis), partial seizures [may make absence and myoclonic seizures worse]
Valproate/valproic acid/ divalproex sodium (Depakene or Depakote)	Adult: up to 60 mg/kg Child: up to 60 mg/kg	nausea, vomiting, menstrual irregularities, hair loss, weight gain, tremor, liver failure, pancreatitis (Women who are considering pregnancy should ask their doctor about risks of valproate to the fetus)	partial seizures; absence seizures; generalized tonic clonic seizures; myoclonic seizures; infantile spasms; Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; atonic seizures
Zonisamide* (Zonegran)	Adult: 100 – 600 mg Child: 2 – 12 mg/kg	sleepiness, fatigue, loss of appetite/weight loss, depression, difficulty with concentrating and speech, unsteadiness, rash, kidney stones, abnormal reduction in perspiration	partial seizures, generalized tonic clonic seizures, absence seizures, myoclonic seizures, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, infantile spasms

* newer antiepileptic drug

The information provided on the medications listed above is not comprehensive, and there are other medications not listed. For more information on any medication, ask your doctor or pharmacist. You can also find out more about these and other antiepileptic drugs by calling Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. **Never make any decisions about a medication without consulting your doctor.**