

Patient Information Sheet for Sodium Valproate (Epilim)

Sodium Valproate is used in epilepsy but is also widely used for the prevention of migraine. Start your tablets as shown below

	AM	PM
Day 1	200mg	200mg
Day 4	200mg	400mg
Day 7	400mg	400mg

You should contact your doctor immediately if you notice any side effects of the medication.

Some side effects that have been observed are:

Liver dysfunction (very rare), weight gain, transient hair loss, nausea, gastric irritation and diarrhoea.

In some cases your doctor may wish to check your blood before you start your tablets and after you have been on them for six months.

It should be noted that although licensed for use in epilepsy, Sodium Valproate is not licensed for use in migraine although it is widely used by headache specialists.

Breastfeeding and pregnancy

You should not take this medication if you are planning a pregnancy, are pregnant or breast feeding.

Doctors wishing to prescribe this drug should follow the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulation Agency Prevent Programme – Valproate Pregnancy Prevention Programme, which is aimed at minimising pregnancy exposure during treatment with Valproate.

This leaflet is intended to provide a brief overview of aspects of this treatment protocol. It is not intended as a substitute for the comprehensive 'product information' leaflet found inside all boxes of medication. The 'product information' leaflet should always be read before taking medication.

Your prescribing doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of the medication as it relates to you and answer any further questions you may have.