

LAMICTAL

lamotrigine

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

WARNING: There are reports of severe, potentially life-threatening rashes associated with Lamotrigine treatment, particularly in children. LAMICTAL should be discontinued at the first sign of rash unless the rash is clearly not drug related.

1. Why am I using LAMICTAL?

LAMICTAL contains the active ingredient lamotrigine. LAMICTAL is used to treat several conditions, including epilepsy and bipolar disorder. For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using LAMICTAL?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use LAMICTAL?

Do not use if you have had an allergic reaction to LAMICTAL or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use LAMICTAL?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with LAMICTAL and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I use LAMICTAL?

LAMICTAL may be swallowed whole, chewed or dispersed in a small volume of water (at least enough to cover the whole tablet). More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use LAMICTAL?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using LAMICTAL?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using LAMICTAL.Contact your doctor immediately if you develop any skin rash such as spots or 'hives' during LAMICTAL treatment.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For epilepsy patients, do not stop taking LAMICTAL or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.Do not take a double dose to make up for any that you may have missed.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Make sure you know how you react to LAMICTAL before you drive a car, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Store LAMICTAL tablets in a cool dry place, protected from light, where the temperature stays below 30°C.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using LAMICTAL?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Common side effects include dizziness, movement problems, tremors, skin rash, headache, nausea, vomiting, feeling drowsy or tired, blurred or double vision, rapid, uncontrollable eye movements, trouble sleeping, feeling sleepy, irritability, aggression or agitation, hallucinations, confusion, increased activity in children, joint, back or stomach pain, respiratory or lung problems, depression, loss of memory, liver problems, diarrhea, dry mouth. Serious side effects include serious skin and allergic reactions, liver and blood problems.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

WARNING: There are reports of severe, potentially life-threatening rashes associated with Lamotrigine treatment, particularly in children. LAMICTAL should be discontinued at the first sign of rash unless the rash is clearly not drug related.

LAMICTAL tablets

Active ingredient: *lamotrigine*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using LAMICTAL. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using LAMICTAL.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using LAMICTAL?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use LAMICTAL?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use LAMICTAL?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using LAMICTAL?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using LAMICTAL?

LAMICTAL contains the Lamotrigine as the active ingredient and belongs to a group of medicines called "anti-epileptic drugs".

Anti-epileptic drugs such as LAMICTAL are used to treat several conditions, including epilepsy and bipolar disorder.

It is used for the treatment of epilepsy in patients over 2 years of age. In general, it is initially used in addition to other medicines, for the treatment of epilepsy including partial or generalised seizures and Lennox- Gastaut syndrome. It is thought that this medicine works by changing the levels of some chemicals associated with seizures.

Lamictal is also used to help prevent depression in adults over 18 years of age with bipolar disorder.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why LAMICTAL has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

There is no evidence that it is addictive.

2. What should I know before I use LAMICTAL?

Warnings

Do not use LAMICTAL if:

- you are allergic to lamotrigine, or any of the

ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

- Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use LAMICTAL.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty in breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or any other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.

Do not take LAMICTAL after the expiry date printed on the pack has passed.

Do not take it if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Check with your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- a history of allergy or rash to other anti-epileptic drugs
- liver or kidney disease
- Parkinson's disease
- If you have ever developed meningitis after taking lamotrigine

Tell your doctor if you are:

- taking any other medicines that contain lamotrigine
- allergic to any other medicines or any foods, dyes or preservatives

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Tell your doctor immediately if you become pregnant or if you are planning to become pregnant.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medicine during pregnancy.

LAMICTAL may affect your unborn baby if you take it during pregnancy, but it is still important that you control your fits while you are pregnant. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking it during pregnancy.

It is recommended that women on anti-epileptic drugs, such as LAMICTAL, receive pre-pregnancy counselling regarding the possible risk to their unborn child.

Studies have shown a decrease in the levels of folic acid during pregnancy when LAMICTAL is also used. It is therefore recommended that you take a daily 5 mg folate supplement before becoming pregnant and during the first 12 weeks of your pregnancy.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

LAMICTAL can pass into breast milk and may affect your baby. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking LAMICTAL if you are breast feeding.

Use in Children

Epilepsy: LAMICTAL is not recommended in children under 2 years of age. Children's weight should be checked and the dose reviewed as weight changes with growth occur.

Bipolar: LAMICTAL is not recommended in children and adolescents under 18 years of age.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with LAMICTAL. These include:

- valproate and carbamazepine, used to treat both epilepsy and mental health problems
- any form of hormonal medicine, e.g. "the pill" or HRT
- other anti-epileptic drugs, e.g. phenytoin, primidone or phenobarbitone
- OCT2 substrates such as dofetilide
- rifampicin, an antibiotic, which is used to treat infections, including tuberculosis
- medicines used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection
- risperidone, used to treat mental health problems.

These medicines may be affected by LAMICTAL or may affect how well it works. You may need to take different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect LAMICTAL.

4. How do I use LAMICTAL?

Taking LAMICTAL for the first time

You may notice that you feel dizzy, tired or unsteady in the first few weeks of treatment with LAMICTAL. During this period, you may also notice that you have slight problems with your vision. As your reactions may be slower during

this period you should not operate any machinery or drive a car. If any of these effects do not go away or are troublesome you should see your doctor.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about taking LAMICTAL.

How much to take

It may take a while to find the best dose of LAMICTAL for you. The dose you take will depend on:

- your age and weight
- whether you are taking LAMICTAL with other medications
- whether you have any kidney or liver problems

Never take more LAMICTAL than your doctor tells you to.

Do not increase the dose more quickly than you have been told.

Your doctor will prescribe a low dose to start and gradually increase the dose over a few weeks until you reach a dose that works for you.

Women taking hormonal contraceptives, such as the birth control 'pill' may need a higher maintenance dose of LAMICTAL. Your doctor will usually decrease your dose once you stop taking hormonal contraceptives.

Tell your doctor if there are any changes in your menstrual pattern such as breakthrough bleeding whilst on the 'pill'.

Your doctor may need to adjust the dose of LAMICTAL as the 'pill' may not work as effectively for contraception whilst taking it.

When to take LAMICTAL

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to work out when it is best for you to take your doses of LAMICTAL.

How to take LAMICTAL

LAMICTAL may be swallowed whole, chewed or dispersed in a small volume of water (at least enough to cover the whole tablet).

It can be taken with or without food.

Your doctor may also advise you to start or stop taking other medications, depending on what condition you are being treated for and the way you respond to treatment.

How long to take it

For epilepsy patients, do not stop taking LAMICTAL or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

Your doctor will advise you if you need to stop taking LAMICTAL and how to do this gradually over a period of two

weeks.

If you forget to use LAMICTAL

LAMICTAL should be used regularly at the same time each day. If you miss your dose at the usual time, take it as soon as you remember and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.

If you take too much LAMICTAL

If you take too much LAMICTAL, you may be more likely to have serious side effects which may be fatal.

Symptoms of overdose can include rapid, uncontrollable eye movements, clumsiness and lack of coordination affecting your balance, impaired or loss of consciousness, fits or coma.

If you think that you have used too much LAMICTAL, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (**by calling 13 11 26**), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

5. What should I know while using LAMICTAL?

Things you should do

Take LAMICTAL exactly as your doctor has prescribed. Contact your doctor immediately if you develop any skin rash, like spots or hives, during LAMICTAL treatment.

There are reports of severe, potentially life-threatening rashes associated with LAMICTAL treatment particularly in children. LAMICTAL should be discontinued at the first sign of rash unless the rash is clearly not drug related.

Contact your doctor if you experience a rash or sunburn after taking LAMICTAL and having been exposed to sun or artificial light, e.g. solarium.

Your doctor will check your treatment and may advise you to avoid sunlight or protect yourself against the sun, e.g. use of a sunscreen and/or to wear protective clothing.

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking LAMICTAL, especially if you are about to start on any new medicines.

If you require a laboratory test, tell your doctor or

hospital that you are taking LAMICTAL.

LAMICTAL may interfere with some laboratory tests to detect other drugs.

Talk to your doctor as soon as possible if you are pregnant or if you are planning to become pregnant.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medicine during pregnancy.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

LAMICTAL can pass into breast milk and may affect your baby. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking LAMICTAL if you are breast feeding.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as prescribed.

Otherwise, your doctor may think that it is not working as it should and change your dosage unnecessarily.

Things you should not do

For epilepsy patients, do not stop taking LAMICTAL, even if you feel better, or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

If you stop taking Lamictal suddenly, your epilepsy may come back or become worse. This is known as "rebound seizures". Your doctor will advise you if you need to stop taking LAMICTAL and how to do it gradually over about 2 weeks.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Things to be careful of

Tell your doctor immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency department of your nearest hospital if you or someone you know has any suicidal thoughts or other mental/mood changes.

All mentions of suicide or violence must be taken seriously. Families and caregivers of children and adolescents who are taking LAMICTAL should be especially watchful for any changing behaviour.

Anti-epileptic medicines such as LAMICTAL may increase the risk of suicidal behaviour (including suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts).

Driving or using machines

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how LAMICTAL affects you.

Make sure you know how you react to LAMICTAL before you drive a car, operate machinery or do anything else

that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or light-headed. If this occurs do not drive.

Children should not ride a bike, climb trees or do anything else that could be dangerous if they are feeling dizzy or sleepy.

Drinking alcohol

Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol.

Looking after your medicine

Keep your tablets in a cool dry place, protected from light where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Follow the instructions in the carton on how to take care of your medicine properly.

Store it in a cool dry place away from moisture, heat or sunlight; for example, do not store it:

- in the bathroom or near a sink, or
- in the car or on windowsills.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half meters above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If your doctor tells you to stop taking LAMICTAL or your tablets have passed their expiry date, take it to your pharmacist for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dizziness • movement problems such as tics, unsteadiness and jerkiness • tremors • skin rash • headache • nausea • vomiting • feeling drowsy or tired • blurred or double vision • rapid, uncontrollable eye movements • trouble sleeping • feeling sleepy • irritability, aggression or agitation • hallucinations, confusion • increased activity in children • joint, back or stomach pain • respiratory or lung problems • depression • loss of memory • liver problems • diarrhoea • dry mouth. 	<p>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</p>

In general, these side effects usually happen during the first few weeks of treatment with LAMICTAL.

6. Are there any side effects?

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking LAMICTAL

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p>Liver and blood problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• drowsiness• itching• abdominal pain or tenderness• feeling very tired• easy bruising or unusual bleeding• a sore throat, or more infections such as a cold, than usual• yellow skin (jaundice).• uncontrollable repeated body movements and/or sounds or words (tics). <p>Serious Allergic skin reactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• any skin reaction, e.g. rash or 'hives' or red nodules or patches on the skin• skin rash or sunburn after exposure to sun or artificial light (photosensitivity)• wheezing, difficulty in breathing• swelling of the face, lips or tongue• sore mouth or sore eyes• fever• swollen glands.	<p>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</p>

Your doctor may decide to carry out tests on your liver, kidneys or blood and may tell you to stop taking LAMICTAL if you experience these rare symptoms.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency department of your nearest hospital if you or someone you know has any suicidal thoughts or other mental/mood changes whilst taking LAMICTAL.

All mentions of suicide or violence must be taken seriously. Families and caregivers of children and adolescents who are taking this medicine should be especially watchful for any changing behaviour. Anti-epileptic medicines such as LAMICTAL may increase the risk of suicidal behaviour (including suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts).

Potentially serious skin reaction

A small number of people taking LAMICTAL get an allergic reaction or potentially serious skin reaction, which may develop into more serious problems if they are not treated. Severe allergic reactions are rare. This risk may be associated with a variant in genes in people from Asian origin (mainly Han Chinese and Thai). If you are of such origin and have been tested previously carrying this genetic variant (HLA-B* 1502), discuss this with your doctor before taking Lamictal.

These symptoms are more likely to happen during the first few months of treatment with LAMICTAL, especially if the dose is too high or if the dose is increased too quickly, or if LAMICTAL is taken with a medicine called valproate. Serious skin reactions are more common in children.

Potentially serious aseptic meningitis

LAMICTAL increases the risk of developing aseptic meningitis, which is a serious inflammation of the protective membrane that covers the brain and spinal cord.

Many of the side effects already listed are symptoms of this condition, as well as light sensitivity, stiff neck, muscle pains and chills.

Potentially serious / life threatening arrhythmia

If you have had a fast heartbeat, heart failure, or other heart problems, you should not take lamotrigine. This drug may cause you to have an abnormal heartbeat, which could lead to sudden death. Symptoms include a fast, slow, or pounding heartbeat, shortness of breath, chest pain, and feeling lightheaded.

If you are taking Lamictal for epilepsy, tell your doctor as soon as possible if your seizures get worse or if you have a new type of seizure.

You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. Serious side effects are rare.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if you think the problems are not connected with this medicine and are not referred to in this leaflet.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

200 mg: AUST R 57262

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What LAMICTAL contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lamotrigine <i>(refer to below description for strength & pack types)</i>
Other ingredients (inactive ingredient)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• calcium carbonate• hypolose• aluminium magnesium silicate• sodium starch glycollate• povidone• saccharin sodium• magnesium stearate• blackcurrant 502009 AP0551.
Potential allergens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• saccharin.

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

LAMICTAL tablets do not contain gluten, lactose, sucrose, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

What LAMICTAL looks like

LAMICTAL dispersible/chewable tablets come in 5 different strengths: 5 mg, 25 mg, 50mg, 100 mg & 200 mg.

LAMICTAL 5 mg: White to off- white, caplet shaped biconvex tablet embossed with "5" on one side and plain on the other side. Available in bottles of 56 tablets.

LAMICTAL 25 mg/50 mg/100 mg or 200 mg: White to off-white, multi-faceted, super-elliptical (rounded square), unscored tablets.

- 25 mg tablet is plain on one side and '25' on the other side.
- 50 mg tablet is plain on one side and '50' on the other side.
- 100 mg tablet is plain on the one side and '100' on the other side.
- 200 mg tablet is plain on the one side and '200' on the other side.

These strengths are available in blister packs of 56 tablets. The 25 mg tablet is also available in sample packs of 7 tablets

Australian Registration Numbers:

5 mg: AUST R 51718
25 mg: AUST R 51548
50 mg: AUST R 57190
100 mg: AUST R 51549

Who distributes LAMICTAL
Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd
34-36 Chandos Street
St Leonards NSW 2065
Australia

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