

## VIGABATRIN

*vi-ga-ba-trin*

### What does it do?

*Vigabatrin* is used to treat and prevent seizures.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

### How should you take it?

Take *vigabatrin* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food.

### What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible and continue as directed.

### Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *vigabatrin* including:

- some antihistamines, such as chlorphenamine, hyoscine, meclozine and promethazine. These can be in medicines for allergies, nausea and colds.

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (e.g. ginkgo) or recreational drugs (e.g. ecstasy).

### What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Suicidal thoughts	Tell your doctor immediately
Changes in vision, unusual eye movements Confusion, drowsiness or weakness Nervousness, irritability, low mood, unusual behaviour or thinking Loss of co-ordination/walking or handwriting problems, tremor Memory problems, trouble concentrating	Tell your doctor
Tiredness, dizziness Tingling or numbness, joint aches and pains Weight gain	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

### Other information:

- *Vigabatrin* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. (search NZTA - Are you safe to drive?)
- You may need regular eye tests while taking *vigabatrin*. Talk to your doctor.
- Do not stop taking *vigabatrin* without talking to your doctor first.