

## 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<br>Confusion, drowsiness or weakness<br>Nervousness, irritability, low mood, unusual behaviour or thinking<br>Loss of co-ordination/walking or handwriting problems, tremor<br>Memory problems, trouble concentrating | Tell your doctor                |
| Tiredness, dizziness<br>Tingling or numbness, joint aches and pains<br>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.