TOPIRAMATE

toe-pye-rah-mate

What does it do?

Topiramate is used to treat and prevent seizures. Sometimes it is used for other conditions, such as preventing migraines.

Before you start

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

How should you take it?

Take *topiramate* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food.
Capsule: If you have trouble swallowing you can open the capsule and sprinkle the contents on a small amount of soft food. Swallow the mixture straight away.

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 *topiramate* 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 Blurred vision, eye pain	Tell your doctor immediately
Confusion, loss of co-ordination/walking or handwriting problems, memory problems, trouble concentrating Mood changes, nervousness Tingling or numbness, tremor Lower back pain, pink/red/brown pee (may be a kidney stone)	Tell your doctor
Dizziness, drowsiness, slow or slurred speech Flushing Tiredness or weakness Dry mouth or throat, changes in taste, loss of appetite, weight loss Stomach upset	Tell your doctor if troublesome

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

Other information:

- Some special diets (e.g. ketogenic) may react with *topiramate* – talk to your doctor.
- *Topiramate* 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?)
- *Topiramate* may cause kidney stones. Drinking plenty of water can help to prevent this.
- Do not stop taking *topiramate* without talking to your doctor first.