

## 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.