

Levetiracetam (lev-e-tyra-se-tam)

You should read this leaflet with your carer/care giver.



Levetiracetam:

- Is also called Keppra, Matever and Desitrend.
- Come as tablets, liquids and granules (powder).

- Levetiracetam is used for epilepsy.
- Levetiracetam is sometimes used for people who are distressed. There is no clear evidence that it improves someone's behaviour.



The label on your levetiracetam packet should tell you when and how much medicine to take.

Swallow your tablet with water or measure and swallow the liquid.

If you have granules, you can swallow from the packet and drink water after, OR mix with food or water.

If you forget to take your medicine, tell someone straight away.

You should carry on taking your medicine even if you feel better unless your doctor asks you to stop.



Drinking alcohol when taking levetiracetam could make you feel sleepy.

Some medicines do not work well together.

You should tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking.

Side effects:

- Medicine can have some effects on your body that are not wanted.
- Not everyone taking a medicine will get them.
- Many will go away with time.
- Many are rare.

You might want to talk to your doctor or the pharmacist or your key worker if you have any side effect.

These are some (but NOT all) side effects of levetiracetam...



- Feeling sleepy or sluggish
- Feeling light headed and dizzy
- Feeling irritated or agitated
- A blocked nose or itchy throat
- Headache
- Feeling less hungry
- Feeling sick or being sick
- Upset tummy
- Problem sleeping
- Problem focusing
- Behaviour may worsen in some

Some side effects are more serious.

You should tell someone straight away if you...

- Thoughts of harming or killing yourself
- Bleed or bruise more than usual
- Peeing less than usual
- Have red rashes or skin pain
- Seizures are getting worse
- Swollen ankles
- Confused or problem remembering things



You should talk to your doctor before you stop taking your medicine.

Sometimes, if you stop taking your medicine, you may:

- Have fits or seizures
- Headache
- Feel light-headed and weak
- Sweating
- Feel sick





This leaflet does not tell you everything about levetiracetam.

You can get more information from:

- your pharmacist, doctor, nurse or carer/ caregiver
- check <http://www.choiceandmedication.org/cnwl/>
- NHS on 111
- medicine information helpline on 020 3317 5090.

This leaflet can be downloaded free of charge from:

<https://spectrom.wixsite.com/project/>

While preparing this leaflet we checked information in...

- The British National Formulary (www.bnf.org)
- Dulcan, M. K., & Ballard, R. (2015). *Helping parents and teachers understand medications for behavioural and emotional problems: A resource book of medication information handouts*. American Psychiatric Publishing, Washington DC, USA.

This leaflet is not designed for people with intellectual/learning disabilities to read on their own. Support (care) staff or care givers should go through the leaflet with the person who has intellectual disabilities.

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