

ADVERTISEMENT

**Find us on: facebook®**
Get news & drug alerts [GO](#)



[Search](#)

[Browse all medications](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Phonetic Search](#)

- [Home](#) [Drugs A to Z](#) [Pill Identifier](#) [Interactions Checker](#) [News & Alerts](#) [Health Professionals](#) [Community](#)

Mednotes

[Drugs A to Z](#) [Drugs by Condition](#) [Drugs by Class](#) [Side Effects](#) [Dosage](#) [Pregnancy](#) [Natural Products](#) [Vet Drugs](#) [Symptom Checker](#) [Harvard Health Topics](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [RSS](#)

[Home](#) > [Drugs by Condition](#) > [M](#) > [Migraine Prevention](#) > Topamax Consumer Information [Print](#) [Save or Share](#)

Topamax

Generic Name: topiramate (toe PYRE a mate)
Brand Names: *Topamax*, *Topamax Sprinkle*, *Topiragen*

Ads by Google

[SUBOXONE® Sublingual Film](#)
[SUBOXONE.com](#) (buprenorphine and naloxone) CIII: Is here: learn how it's different

[Phentramine HCL 37.5 mg](#)
[pghp.com/phentramine](#) Free Shipping options Low price \$41 No script - No Hidden Fees!

[Help For Migraine Pain](#)
[www.AscendantNeuro.com/Migraine](#) Tried Everything But Nothing Works? Ask About Our Treatment Options!

What is Topamax?

Topamax (topiramate) is a seizure medication, also called an anticonvulsant.

Topamax is used alone to treat seizures in adults and children who are at least 10 years old.

Topamax is used in combination with other medications to treat seizures in adults and children who are at least 2 years old.

Topamax is also used to prevent migraine headaches in adults. It will only prevent migraine headaches or reduce the number of attacks. It will not treat a headache that has already begun.

Topamax may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

ADVERTISEMENT

[SUBOXONE® Sublingual Film](#)
(buprenorphine and naloxone) CIII: Is here: learn how it's different
[SUBOXONE.com](#)
[Suffer From Migraines?](#)
Many Patients Our Doctors Have Treated Have Had Permanent Relief!
[www.AscendantNeuro.com/Migraine](#)
[Phentramine HCL 37.5 mg](#)
Free Shipping options Low price \$41 No script - No Hidden Fees!
[pghp.com/phentramine](#)
[Alternate Migraine Relief](#)
Looking for an alternative to your current migraine treatment?
[www.prescriptionmigrainerelief.com](#)

[Ads by Google](#)

Important information about Topamax

Do not stop using Topamax without first talking to your doctor, even if you feel fine. You may have increased seizures if you stop using Topamax suddenly. You may need to use less and less before you stop the medication completely. Contact your doctor if your seizures get worse or you have them more often while taking Topamax.

Seek emergency medical attention if you have a sudden change in vision or pain around or

[Sign In or Register](#) [Forgot password?](#)

[Sign In](#)

Related Topamax Information

**Approval History**
Tablet; Oral FDA approved 1996

**Pregnancy Category**
Risk cannot be ruled out

**Availability**
Prescription only

**CSA Schedule**
Not a controlled drug

Reviews

Average User Rating

[144 User Reviews](#)**7.1** [Rate it!](#)

Related Pages

[Detailed Side Effects](#) [Pregnancy & Breastfeeding](#)
[Drug Interactions](#) [Dosage Information](#)
[Drug Images](#) [Support Group Q & A](#)

Drug Class

[Carbonic anhydrase inhibitor anticonvulsants](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Related Drugs

Migraine Prevention
[atenolol](#)
[propranolol](#)
[Depakote](#)
[verapamil](#)
[nifedipine](#)
[topiramate](#)
[divalproex sodium](#)
[Inderal](#)
[Tenormin](#)
[valproic acid](#)
[nadolol](#)
[timolol](#)
[More...](#)

Seizure Prevention
[clonazepam](#)
[Klonopin](#)
[Valium](#)
[diazepam](#)
[Lamictal](#)
[lamotrigine](#)
[topiramate](#)
[magnesium sulfate](#)

behind the eyes. These may be early signs of a serious and permanent side effect on your vision.

You may have thoughts about suicide while taking Topamax. Tell your doctor if you have new or worsening symptoms of depression, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts. Your family or other caregivers should also be alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Your doctor will need to check you at regular visits.

Wear a medical alert tag or carry an ID card stating that you take Topamax. Any medical care provider or dentist who treats you should know that you are taking a seizure medication.

Ketogenic or "ketosis" diets that are high in protein and low in carbohydrates can increase the risk of kidney stones. Avoid the use of such diets while you are taking Topamax.

Before taking Topamax

You should not use Topamax if you are allergic to topiramate.

If you have any of these other conditions, you may need a Topamax dose adjustment or special tests:

- kidney disease or a history of kidney stones;
- liver disease;
- glaucoma;
- a history of depression or suicide attempt;
- a growth disorder;
- a history of metabolic acidosis;
- osteoporosis or low bone density; or
- asthma, emphysema, or other breathing disorder.

You may have thoughts about suicide while taking Topamax. Tell your doctor if you have new or worsening symptoms of depression, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts. Your family or other caregivers should also be alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Your doctor will need to check you at regular visits.

FDA pregnancy category C. It is not known whether Topamax will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while using this medication. Topamax can make birth control pills less effective. Ask your doctor about using a non-hormone method of birth control (such as a condom, diaphragm, spermicide) to prevent pregnancy while taking Topamax. It is not known whether topiramate passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. Do not use Topamax without telling your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

See also: [Topamax pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (in more detail)

[Ads by Google](#)

Alternate Migraine Relief

Not getting enough relief from your migraine medicine?

www.prescriptionmigrainerelief.com

Breakthrough Back Pain..

Imagine Being Pain Free. Make Your Dream a Reality. FDA Cleared!

www.TexasSpineClinic.com

Do You Have Epilepsy?

Take surveys to compare your epilepsy to people like you. Free!

www.patientslikeme.com

How should I take Topamax?

[valproic acid](#)
[acetazolamide](#)
[Diamox](#)
[clorazepate](#)
[More...](#)

Drug Images



[View all 10 images](#)

Get Updates by Email

Email me about Topamax:

News and Warnings related to this drug

Also send the Drugs.com monthly newsletter
FDA Medwatch Alerts for all medications

Get Notified

ADVERTISEMENT

Lower Your Blood Pressure - The All Natural Way

The only non-drug medical device clinically proven to lower blood pressure www.resperate.com

\$350,000 in Life Insurance

Protect Your Family Today. Coverage as low as \$13.04/month. Free Quote Here BestQuoteMarket.com

Weight Loss Medicine

Immediate weight loss - reduces fat absorption - less fat means less pounds www.pharmcom.com

Related News and Articles

Epilepsy Drugs Don't Raise Suicide Risk, Study Shows

5 Aug 2010

In 2008, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration required epilepsy medications to bear a warning label about an increased risk of suicidal behaviors. The move ...

Antiepileptic Drugs FDA Medwatch Alert

5 May 2009

Take Topamax exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results.

Topamax can be taken with or without food.

The Topamax tablet should be swallowed whole. It has a bitter taste when chewed or broken.

You may open the Topamax capsule and sprinkle the medicine into a spoonful of applesauce or other soft food to make swallowing easier. Swallow right away without chewing. Do not save the mixture for later use. Discard the empty capsule.

To be sure Topamax is not causing harmful effects, your blood may need to be tested often. Your kidney or liver function may also need to be tested. Visit your doctor regularly.

If you need surgery, tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using Topamax. You may need to stop using the medicine for a short time. Do not stop using Topamax without first talking to your doctor, even if you feel fine. You may have increased seizures if you stop using Topamax suddenly. You may need to use less and less before you stop the medication completely. Contact your doctor if your seizures get worse or you have them more often while taking Topamax. Wear a medical alert tag or carry an ID card stating that you take Topamax. Any medical care provider or dentist who treats you should know that you are taking a seizure medication. Drink plenty of liquids while you are taking Topamax. This will lower your risk of having kidney stones or an electrolyte imbalance. Call your doctor if you have ongoing vomiting or diarrhea. You can easily become dehydrated while taking this medication.

Store Topamax at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Keep the bottle tightly closed when not in use.

See also: [Topamax dosage](#) (in more detail)

What happens if I miss a dose?

If you are less than 6 hours late in taking your medicine, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

Call your doctor for instructions if you miss two or more doses.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include drowsiness, dizziness, agitation or depression, blurred vision, problems with speech or balance, stomach pain, chest pain, fast or pounding heartbeats, feeling light-headed, fainting, and seizure (convulsions).

What should I avoid while taking Topamax?

Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated during exercise and in hot weather. Topamax can decrease sweating and you may be more prone to heat stroke.

Topamax may cause blurred vision or impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert and able to see clearly. Avoid drinking alcohol. It can increase certain side effects of Topamax, and can also increase your risk of a seizure.

Ketogenic or "ketosis" diets that are high in protein and low in carbohydrates can increase the risk of kidney stones. Avoid the use of such diets while you are taking Topamax.

[UPDATE 05/05/2009] FDA notified healthcare professionals that it approved updated labeling for antiepileptic drugs used to treat epilepsy, psychiatric ...

FDA Adds Suicide Warning to Epilepsy Drugs

16 Dec 2008

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced Tuesday that it was adding a label warning on heightened suicide risk for users of antiepileptic drugs. The ...

Topamax (topiramate) FDA Medwatch Alert

30 Sep 2005

[UPDATE November 10, 2005] Letters from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation added below [UPDATE September 30, 2005] Letters from Ortho-McNeil Neurologics, ...

Topamax (topiramate) Tablets/Sprinkle Capsules FDA Medwatch Alert

30 Dec 2003

Ortho-McNeil and FDA revised the WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS sections of the prescribing information, notifying healthcare professionals that Topamax causes ...

 [View more...](#)

Help and Support

Looking for answers? [Ask a question](#) or go join the [Topamax support group](#) to connect with others who have similar interests.

There is hope. Chat privately with our oncology info experts today.

CancerCenter.com/CareThatNeverQuits

[Back Pain Medication](#)

Safe Outpatient Procedure. Relief From Back Pain In Less Than 1 Week!

www.LaserSpineInstitute.com/Back

[Effective Drug Treatment](#)

Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs. Call (877) 680-8223

www.TheRecoveryPlace.net/Treatment

Topamax side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction to Topamax: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor, such as: mood or behavior changes, anxiety, panic attacks, trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, hostile, aggressive, restless, hyperactive (mentally or physically), more depressed, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself. Call your doctor at once if you have a serious side effect while using Topamax, such as:

- sudden vision loss, pain around or behind your eyes;
- dry mouth, increased thirst, drowsiness, decreased sweating, increased body temperature, and hot, dry skin,
- slowed thinking, memory problems, trouble concentrating;
- problems with speech or balance;
- confusion, mood changes, unusual behavior, thoughts of suicide or hurting yourself;
- vomiting, loss of appetite, tired feeling, irregular heartbeats, feeling like you might pass out; or
- severe pain in your side or lower back, painful or difficult urination.

Less serious Topamax side effects may include:

- mild dizziness;
- numbness or tingly feeling;
- diarrhea, weight loss;
- feeling nervous;
- change in your sense of taste; or
- cold symptoms such as stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Tell your doctor about any unusual or bothersome side effect. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

See also: [Topamax side effects](#) (in more detail)

What other drugs will affect Topamax?

Cold or allergy medicine, sedatives, narcotic pain medicine, sleeping pills, muscle relaxers, and medicine for depression or anxiety can add to sleepiness caused by Topamax. Tell your doctor if you regularly use any of these medicines, or any other seizure medication.

Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use, especially:

- glycopyrrolate (Robinul);
- lithium (Eskalith, LithoBid);
- hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ, HydroDiuril, Hyzaar, Lopressor, Vasoretic, Zestoretic);
- mepenzolate (Cantil);
- metformin (Glucophage, Actoplus Met, Avandamet, Fortamet, Janumet, PrandiMet, Riomet);

- atropine (Atreza, Sal-Tropine), belladonna (Donnatal, and others), benzotropine (Cogentin), dimenhydrinate (Dramamine), methscopolamine (Pamine), or scopolamine (Transderm-Scop);
- bronchodilators such as ipratropium (Atrovent) or tiotropium (Spiriva);
- bladder or urinary medications such as darifenacin (Enablex), flavoxate (Urispas), oxybutynin (Ditropan, Oxytrol), tolterodine (Detrol), or solifenacin (Vesicare);
- glaucoma medications such as acetazolamide (Diamox) or methazolamide (Neptazane);
- irritable bowel medications such as dicyclomine (Bentyl), hyoscyamine (Hyomax), or propantheline (Pro-Banthine); or
- other seizure medications such as carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Tegretol), lamotrigine (Lamictal), phenytoin (Dilantin), valproic acid (Depakote, Depakene), or zonisamide (Zonegran).

This list is not complete and other drugs may interact with Topamax. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor.

More Topamax resources

- [Topamax Side Effects](#) (in More Detail)
- [Topamax Dosage](#)
- [Topamax Use in Pregnancy & Breastfeeding](#)
- [Drug Images](#)
- [Topamax Drug Interactions](#)
- [Topamax Support Group](#)
- [144 Reviews for Topamax](#) - [Add your own review/rating](#)

Professional [Topamax Prescribing Information](#) (FDA)

Med Facts [Topamax MedFacts Consumer Leaflet](#) (Wolters Kluwer)

Professional [Topamax Monograph](#) (AHFS DI)

Advanced [Topamax Advanced Consumer](#) (Micromedex) - Includes Dosage Information

Professional [Topiramate Prescribing Information](#) (FDA)

Professional [Topiramate Professional Patient Advice](#) (Wolters Kluwer)

Professional [Topiragen Prescribing Information](#) (FDA)

Compare Topamax with other medications

- [Bipolar Disorder](#)
 - [Diabetic Nerve Damage](#)
 - [Migraine Prevention](#)
 - [Seizure Prevention](#)
 - [Tourette's Syndrome](#)
 - [Vulvodynia](#)
- [Bulimia](#)
 - [Fibromyalgia](#)
 - [Obesity](#)
 - [Smoking Cessation](#)
 - [Trigeminal Neuralgia](#)

Where can I get more information?

- Your pharmacist can provide more information about Topamax.

[Printable Version](#)

[Email](#)

[Recommend](#)

[Tweet](#)

[Save or Share](#)

Ads by Google

Migraine Defense

Preventing migraines for men, women, and children since 2004.
[www.Tuliv.com](#)

Hormonal Migraines?

Migraines in women may be hormonal. Learn how to get relief, naturally.

www.womentowomen.com

- Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.
- Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided by Cerner Multum, Inc. ('Multum') is accurate, up-to-date, and complete, but no guarantee is made to that effect. Drug information contained herein may be time sensitive. Multum information has been compiled for use by healthcare practitioners and consumers in the United States and therefore Multum does not warrant that uses outside of the United States are appropriate, unless specifically indicated otherwise. Multum's drug information does not endorse drugs, diagnose patients or recommend therapy. Multum's drug information is an informational resource designed to assist licensed healthcare practitioners in caring for their patients and/or to serve consumers viewing this service as a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the expertise, skill, knowledge and judgment of healthcare practitioners. The absence of a warning for a given drug or drug combination in no way should be construed to indicate that the drug or drug combination is safe, effective or appropriate for any given patient. Multum does not assume any responsibility for any aspect of healthcare administered with the aid of information Multum provides. The information contained herein is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, warnings, drug interactions, allergic reactions, or adverse effects. If you have questions about the drugs you are taking, check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Copyright 1996-2010 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 9.01. Revision Date: 08/17/2010 3:19:25 PM.

Search

Ads by Google [Alcohol Rehab](#) [Alcohol Detox](#) [Epilepsy Drugs](#) [Alcohol Clinic](#)

Support	About Drugs.com	Your Privacy
Advertise With Us Frequently Asked Questions Pharmaceutical Companies Widgets for your Website Content Submissions About Drugs.com Contact Us Sitemap Follow us on:  	Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines & natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not to be used for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex™ (updated Feb 3rd, 2011), Cerner Multum™ (updated Jan 20th, 2011), Wolters Kluwer™ (updated Jan 12th, 2011) and others. To view content sources and attributions, refer to our editorial policy. Copyright © 2000-2011 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.	Terms of Use · Privacy Policy  TRUSTe CERTIFIED PRIVACY Verify Here  We comply with the HONcode standard for trustworthy health information. Verify here  Ad Choices