

Mersey Region Epilepsy Association

Registered Charity Number: 404366



medical treatment

Drugs prescribed by doctors for the treatment of epilepsy do not offer a cure for the condition but a means for controlling seizures and do so for a lot of people.

Every effort will be made to use just one drug (monotherapy) but quite often more than one drug has to be used (polytherapy) to control the seizures

Epilepsy drugs are no different than any others in so much as they do sometimes cause unwanted side effects. Your doctor will explain this to you and ask you to keep an eye out for any of these. Very often it is a question of "horses for courses" and a drug that may suit one person may not suit another.

The most important issue is to take the medication as and when directed. Do not be tempted to alter the dose yourself.

If you have been seizure free for many years you may be offered the opportunity to withdraw drugs. Such withdrawal is a very precise science and must be done under the close supervision of your doctor.

Here is an alphabetical list of some of the drugs used in the treatment of epilepsy.

clonazepam; eslicarbazepine acetate (Zebinix[®]); ethosuximide (Emeside[®] Zarontin[®]); gabapentin (Neurontin[®]); lacosamide (Vimpat[®]); lamotrigine (Lamictal[®]); levetiracetam (Keppra[®], Desitrend[®]); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal[®]); perampanel (Fycompa[®]); phenobarbital; phenytoin (Epanutin[®]); pregabalin (Lyrica[®]); primidone; retigabine (Trobal[®]); rufinamide (Inovelon[®]); sodium valproate (Epilim[®], Epilim Chrono[®], Epilim Chronosphere[®], Episenta[®], Epival[®]); valproic acid (Convulex[®] Depakote[®]); tiagabine (Gabitril[®]); topiramate (Topamax[®]); vigabatrin (Sabril[®]); zonisamide (Zonegran[®])

With each packet dispensed there is an information leaflet. It makes sense to read it and then raise any queries with your doctor

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