

- nausea • oedema • paraesthesia • speech disorder • thinking abnormal • tremor • vision disorders • vomiting • weight increased
- ▶ **Uncommon** Movement disorders • psychotic disorder • seizure (patients with myoclonic seizures at greater risk) • skin reactions
- ▶ **Rare or very rare** Angioedema • encephalopathy • hallucination • hepatitis • optic neuritis • suicide attempt
- ▶ **Frequency not known** Muscle tone increased

**SIDE-EFFECTS, FURTHER INFORMATION** **Encephalopathic symptoms** Encephalopathic symptoms including marked sedation, stupor, and confusion with non-specific slow wave EEG can occur rarely—reduce dose or withdraw.

**Visual field defects** About one-third of patients treated with vigabatrin have suffered visual field defects; counselling and careful monitoring for this side-effect are required.

- **PREGNANCY** See also *Pregnancy* in Epilepsy p. 321.  
**Monitoring** The dose should be monitored carefully during pregnancy and after birth, and adjustments made on a clinical basis.

- **BREAST FEEDING** Present in milk—manufacturer advises avoid.

- **RENAL IMPAIRMENT**

**Dose adjustments** ▶ In adults Consider reduced dose or increased dose interval if eGFR less than 60 mL/minute/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.

▶ In children Consider reduced dose or increased dose interval if estimated glomerular filtration rate less than 60 mL/minute/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.

- **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS** Closely monitor neurological function.
- **DIRECTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION**
- ▶ With oral use The contents of a sachet should be dissolved in water or a soft drink immediately before taking. Tablets may be crushed and dispersed in liquid.
- ▶ With rectal use Dissolve contents of sachet in small amount of water and administer rectally [unlicensed use].
- **PATIENT AND CARER ADVICE** Patients and their carers should be warned to report any new visual symptoms that develop.

Medicines for Children leaflet: Vigabatrin for preventing seizures [www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/vigabatrin-preventing-seizures](http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/vigabatrin-preventing-seizures)

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: oral solution

**Powder**

CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 3, 8, 13

- ▶ **Sabril** (Sanofi)

**Vigabatrin 500 mg** Sabril 500mg oral powder sachets sugar-free | 50 sachet [PoM] £24.60 DT = £24.60

**Tablet**

CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 3, 8

- ▶ **Sabril** (Sanofi)

**Vigabatrin 500 mg** Sabril 500mg tablets | 100 tablet [PoM] £44.41 DT = £44.41

## Zonisamide

20-Feb-2019

- **INDICATIONS AND DOSE**

**Monotherapy for treatment of focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation in adults with newly diagnosed epilepsy**

- ▶ **BY MOUTH**

▶ **Adult:** Initially 100 mg once daily for 2 weeks, then increased in steps of 100 mg every 2 weeks, usual maintenance dose 300 mg once daily; maximum 500 mg per day

### Adjunctive treatment for refractory focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation

- ▶ **BY MOUTH**

- ▶ **Child 6-17 years (body-weight 20-54 kg):** Initially 1 mg/kg once daily for 7 days, then increased in steps of 1 mg/kg every 7 days, usual maintenance 6-8 mg/kg once daily (max. per dose 500 mg once daily), dose to be increased at 2-week intervals in patients who are **not** receiving concomitant carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital or other potent inducers of cytochrome P450 enzyme CYP3A4

- ▶ **Child 6-17 years (body-weight 55 kg and above):** Initially 1 mg/kg once daily for 7 days, then increased in steps of 1 mg/kg every 7 days, usual maintenance 300-500 mg once daily, dose to be increased at 2-week intervals in patients who are **not** receiving concomitant carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital or other potent inducers of cytochrome P450 enzyme CYP3A4

- ▶ **Adult:** Initially 50 mg daily in 2 divided doses for 7 days, then increased to 100 mg daily in 2 divided doses, then increased in steps of 100 mg every 7 days, usual maintenance 300-500 mg daily in 1-2 divided doses, dose to be increased at 2-week intervals in patients who are **not** receiving concomitant carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital or other potent inducers of cytochrome P450 enzyme CYP3A4

- **CAUTIONS** Elderly • low body-weight or poor appetite—monitor weight throughout treatment (fatal cases of weight loss reported in children) • metabolic acidosis—monitor serum bicarbonate concentration in children and those with other risk factors (consider dose reduction or discontinuation if metabolic acidosis develops) • risk factors for renal stone formation (particularly predisposition to nephrolithiasis)

**CAUTIONS, FURTHER INFORMATION** Avoid overheating and ensure adequate hydration especially in children, during strenuous activity or if in warm environment (fatal cases of heat stroke reported in children).

- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: antiepileptics

- **SIDE-EFFECTS**

- ▶ **Common or very common** Alopecia • anxiety • appetite decreased • ataxia • bradyphrenia • concentration impaired • confusion • constipation • depression • diarrhoea • dizziness • drowsiness • fatigue • fever • gastrointestinal discomfort • hypersensitivity • influenza like illness • insomnia • memory loss • mood altered • nausea • nystagmus • paraesthesia • peripheral oedema • psychosis • rash (consider discontinuation) • skin reactions • speech disorder • tremor • urolithiasis • vision disorders • vomiting • weight decreased

- ▶ **Uncommon** Behaviour abnormal • gallbladder disorders • hallucination • hypokalaemia • increased risk of infection • leucopenia • respiratory disorders • seizures • suicidal tendencies • thrombocytopenia

- ▶ **Rare or very rare** Agranulocytosis • angle closure glaucoma • anhidrosis • bone marrow disorders • coma • dyspnoea • eye pain • heat stroke • hepatocellular injury • hydronephrosis • leucocytosis • lymphadenopathy • metabolic acidosis • myasthenic syndrome • neuroleptic malignant syndrome • pancreatitis • renal failure • renal tubular acidosis • rhabdomyolysis • severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs) • urine abnormal

- ▶ **Frequency not known** Sudden unexplained death in epilepsy

- **ALLERGY AND CROSS-SENSITIVITY** Contra-indicated in sulfonamide hypersensitivity.

Antiepileptic hypersensitivity syndrome theoretically associated with zonisamide. See under Epilepsy p. 321 for more information.