

A medication information leaflet for paediatric patients

## VIGABATRIN

Other names: Sabril®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

**The name of your child's medicine is: Vigabatrin**

### Why is your child taking this medicine?

Vigabatrin works by reducing the breakdown of a chemical messenger in the brain and this helps reduce seizure (fits) in children with epilepsy or infantile spasms.

### When to give this medicine to your child

- Give exactly as directed by your doctor or pharmacist, never give more than the prescribed dose.
- Give vigabatrin at the same time(s) every day. Marking a calendar may be a helpful reminder.
- The tablets may be given before or after food and may be halved or crushed for part-doses.
- If a part-dose is required, dissolve the tablet(s) in water, milk or orange juice immediately before the dose is due, and carefully measure the required amount with an oral syringe or medicine measure (available from your community pharmacy). Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the right amount. Throw away any left over mixture – make up a fresh mixture for each dose.
- Ensure you always have a supply of medicine on hand.

**DO NOT STOP** giving vigabatrin without your doctor's permission.

### What should you do if your child misses a dose

Give the dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for the next dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to the regular dosing schedule. You should not give two doses at the same time.

### What should you do if your child vomits after a dose

If the vomiting occurs less than 15 minutes after the medicine is given, give the entire dose again. If more than 15 minutes have passed, do not give it again until the next scheduled dose.

## Side effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on the body that are unwanted. These are called side effects.

Call your doctor or speak to your pharmacist **immediately** if your child has any of these side effects:

- depression, confusion, aggression
- increase in the number of seizures (fits)
- skin rash, itching or hives

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child has these side effects:

- drowsiness or sedation
- agitation
- excitement
- insomnia
- behavioural difficulties
- vision disturbances such as blurring or double vision

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any side effect is of a concern to you.

## Other Medication

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child is taking any other medicines including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

## Storage

Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.**