

Medication Information

Lamictal

Lamictal (lamotrigine) belongs to a group of medications called anticonvulsants, used to control seizure disorders. In psychiatry, it is used as a mood stabilizer in people with bipolar disorders. The usual daily dose is 100-400 mg.

Precautions: Severe and dangerous rashes have occurred. Notify your physician immediately if you develop a rash. Lamictal needs to be taken on a regular basis to be of benefit and should not be discontinued suddenly. It is best to avoid any use of alcohol or street drugs when taking this medication. Because this medication can cause problems with balance or blurred vision, do not drive or operate heavy machinery until you know how you will be affected. If there is a possibility you may become pregnant or breast-feed, consult with your physician. Lamictal may interact with the following medications: Tegretol, phenobarbital, Dilantin, Mysoline, and Depakote.

Common side effects include: headache, increased sensitivity to sun exposure, balance problems blurred vision, tremor, and nausea. Other adverse effects not listed here may occur. Contact your physician if you develop any unusual or disturbing symptoms.

Alternative Treatments: Other mood stabilizers include: Lithium, Depakote, Tegretol, Trileptal, Topomax, Neurontin, Gabitril, and atypical antipsychotics. Supplementary omega 3 fatty acids have been found helpful in some people with milder mood swings. Various forms of psychotherapy are all often beneficial. Left untreated, bipolar disorder tends to become more severe and chronic.