

Drug (generic name)	Available as (brand name)	Usual starting dose – black Usual total daily dose – purple	Doses per day	Types of seizures or epilepsy that the drug is used for	Possible side effects including the following (any severe reactions should be reported to the GP or paediatrician)
Carbamazepine	Carbamazepine: tablets 100mg, 200mg, 400mg. Tegretol: tablets 100mg, 200mg, 400mg, chewtabs 100mg, 200mg, liquid (sugar-free) 100mg/5ml, suppositories 125mg, 250mg. Tegretol Retard: tablets 200mg, 400mg.	5mg/kg. 10mg/kg – 20mg/kg.	1 – 3	Effective for tonic clonic seizures, and focal seizures with or without secondarily generalised tonic clonic seizures. May worsen myoclonic and absence seizures.	Skin rash if allergic to carbamazepine. Blurred vision, double vision, dizziness and unsteadiness to start with or if dose is too high. Nausea and vomiting, drowsiness, headache, confusion and agitation.
Clobazam	Frisium: tablets 5mg, 10mg.	Over 3 years. 0.25mg/kg. 0.5mg/kg.	2	Add-on treatment for seizures. May also be used for catamenial (menstrual-related) and cluster seizures.	Light-headedness, confusion, ataxia (shaky movements) and irritability. Drowsiness can occur.
Clonazepam	Rivotril: tablets 0.5mg, 2mg, liquid 2.5mg/ml.	Under 1 year: 0.25mg. 0.5 – 1mg. 1 – 5 years: 0.25mg. 1 – 3mg. 5 – 12 years: 0.5mg. 3 – 6mg.	1 – 3	Effective for focal and tonic clonic seizures.	Drowsiness and sedation are common but may wear off. Tolerance can develop. Dizziness, fatigue (tiredness), poor concentration and restlessness. Excess secretions can be a problem (such as increased drooling).
Ethosuximide	Ethosuximide: capsules 250mg. Emeside: syrup 250mg/5ml. Zarontin: syrup 250mg/5ml.	Up to 6 years: 10mg/kg up to 250mg. 20 – 40mg/kg up to 500mg. Over 6 years: 500mg. 1000 – 1500mg.	2 (rarely, 3)	Effective for typical absence seizures. Also used for myoclonic, atypical absence, atonic and tonic seizures.	Headache, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and anorexia.
Gabapentin	Gabapentin: capsules 100mg, 300mg, 400mg, tablets 600mg, 800mg. Neurontin: capsules 100mg, 300mg, 400mg, tablets 600mg, 800mg.	2 – 6 years: 10mg/kg. 30 – 70mg/kg. Over 6 years: 10mg/kg. 25 – 35mg/kg up to 70mg/kg.	3	Add-on therapy for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation.	Drowsiness, dizziness, unsteadiness, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain and weight gain.
Lamotrigine	Lamotrigine: tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg, 200mg, dispersible tablets 5mg, 25mg, 100mg. Lamictal: tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg, 200mg, dispersible tablets 2mg, 5mg, 25mg, 100mg.	Over 2 years. With sodium valproate: 0.15mg/kg. 1 – 5mg/kg. With oxcarbazepine: 0.3mg/kg. 1 – 10mg/kg up to 200mg. With enzyme-inducing AEDs and without sodium valproate: 0.3mg/kg. 5 – 15mg/kg up to 400mg.	1 – 2	Add-on therapy for focal seizures, and primary and secondarily generalised tonic clonic seizures. Also used for atypical absence, atonic and tonic seizures, particularly in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.	Serious skin rash and hypersensitivity if allergic to lamotrigine. Risk minimised with slow introduction. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, fatigue (tiredness), dizziness and sleep disturbance. Tremor may occur when taken with sodium valproate and may reduce as dose is changed.
Levetiracetam	Keppra: tablets 250mg, 500mg, 750mg, 1000mg, oral solution 100mg/ml.	Over 4 years. 10mg/kg. 60mg/kg.	2	Add-on treatment for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation, myoclonic and tonic clonic seizures.	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, anorexia, weight changes, dizziness, drowsiness and behaviour change.
Nitrazepam	Nitrazepam: oral suspension 2.5mg/ml.	Up to 2 years. 0.25mg/kg. 0.5mg/kg.	2 – 3	Effective for infantile spasms only.	Drowsiness, confusion and ataxia (shaky movements).
Oxcarbazepine	Oxcarbazepine: tablets 150mg, 300mg, 600mg. Trileptal: tablets 150mg, 300mg, 600mg, oral suspension (sugar-free) 300mg/5ml.	8 – 10mg/kg up to 300mg. 30 – 46mg/kg.	2	Monotherapy and add-on treatment for focal seizures with or without secondary generalised tonic clonic seizures.	Skin rash if allergic to oxcarbazepine. Nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhoea, dizziness, headache, double vision and drowsiness.
Phenobarbital	Phenobarbital: tablets 15mg, 30mg, 60mg, elixir 15mg/5ml.	Over 1 year. 2 – 3mg/kg. 2.5 – 8mg/kg.	1 – 2	Effective for focal and tonic clonic seizures, and neo-natal (birth to 28 days old) seizures. Also used for atypical absence, atonic and tonic seizures. Ineffective for typical absences.	Drowsiness may happen to start with, sedation and slowed thought may be long-lasting. Lethargy, depression, ataxia (shaky movements), aggression and behavioural problems.
Phenytoin	Phenytoin: tablets 100mg. Epanutin: capsules 25mg, 50mg, 100mg, 300mg, infatabs 50mg.	3 – 5mg/kg. 5 – 10mg/kg up to 300mg.	2	Effective for focal and tonic clonic seizures, and neo-natal (birth to 28 days old) seizures. Ineffective for absence seizures. May worsen myoclonic seizures. Blood testing is essential as the relationship between dose and blood level is complex.	Skin rash if allergic to phenytoin. Nausea, vomiting, constipation, insomnia (not able to sleep), tremor, pins and needles, dizziness and headache. Can cause coarse facial features, acne, hirsutism (excess hair) and overgrowth of gums if used over a long time.
Primidone	Mysoline: tablets 250mg.	125mg. Up to 2 years: 250 – 500mg. 2 – 5 years: 500 – 750mg. 5 – 9 years: 750 – 1000mg. 9 years and over: up to 1500mg.	2	Effective for all seizure types except absence seizures. <i>Not often used in children.</i>	Drowsiness, lethargy, depression, psychosis, ataxia (shaky movements) and behavioural problems.
Rufinamide	Inovelon: tablets 100mg, 200mg, 400mg.	200mg. 1000mg (or 600mg if taking with sodium valproate).	2	Add-on treatment for Lennox-Gastaut syndrome only.	Nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, rhinitis (runny nose), weight loss and dizziness.
Sodium valproate	Sodium valproate: tablets 100mg (crushable), 200mg, 500mg, oral solution 200mg/5ml. Epilim: tablets 100mg (crushable), 200mg, 500mg, liquid (sugar-free) 200mg/5ml, syrup 200mg/5ml. Epilim Chrono: tablets 200mg, 300mg, 500mg. Epilim Chronosphere: (granules) 50mg, 100mg, 250mg, 500mg, 750mg. Episenta: capsules 150mg, 300mg, granules 500mg, 1000mg.	5mg/kg. 40mg/kg.	2	Effective for generalised tonic clonic, absence and myoclonic seizures. Also used for atypical absence, atonic and tonic seizures.	Hair loss – not usually severe and is usually reversible if the dose is reduced. Nausea, stomach upset, diarrhoea, and weight gain (due to increased appetite). Hyperactivity and behaviour problems. Has been associated with polycystic ovaries and menstrual problems.
Stiripentol	Diacomit: capsules 250mg, 500mg, powder 250mg, 500mg.	5mg/kg. 50mg/kg.	2 – 3	Add-on treatment for tonic clonic seizures for children with severe myoclonic epilepsy in infancy (SMEI or Dravet syndrome) where other treatment has not worked.	Nausea, vomiting, aggression, anorexia, ataxia (shaky movements), drowsiness and excitability.
Tiagabine	Gabitril: tablets 5mg, 10mg, 15mg.	From 12 years. 10mg. With enzyme inducing AEDs: 30 – 45mg. With non-enzyme inducing AEDs: 15 – 30mg.	2 – 3	Add-on treatment for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation where other treatment has not worked.	Diarrhoea, dizziness, tiredness, nervousness, tremor, concentration problems, depression and agitation.
Topiramate	Topamax: tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg, 200mg, sprinkle capsules 15mg, 25mg.	From 6 years. Used alone: 0.5 – 1mg/kg. 15mg/kg. Used with other AEDs: 25mg. 5 – 9mg/kg.	2	Add-on treatment for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation, and tonic clonic seizures. Also used for Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.	Headache, drowsiness, dizziness, weight loss and pins and needles. Slowed thought and speech may occur. Some cases of eye problems have been reported within one month of starting treatment.
Vigabatrin	Sabril: tablets 500mg, powder 500mg/sachet.	30 – 40mg/kg. 60 – 80mg/kg. 150mg/day for infantile spasms.	2	Effective for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation where other treatment has not worked. First line treatment for infantile spasms. Particularly useful in Tuberous Sclerosis. May worsen absence and myoclonic seizures.	Drowsiness, fatigue, nausea, behaviour and mood changes. Visual field defects have been reported in some adults: visual fields should be checked every six months.