What Sodium Valproate Tablets contain

The name of this medicine is Sodium Valproate Tablets. It contains the active substance sodium valproate. This medicine is available as Gastro-Resistant Tablets and as Sodium Valproate Tablets.

The active substance of Sodium Valproate Tablets contains sodium valproate, which is a medicine in the group of medicines called anticonvulsants or anti-epileptics. It is used to treat epilepsy, to prevent and treat convulsions when you have a fit, but you must also follow the advice in section 3 of this leaflet. If you are using other medicines for epilepsy, you should talk to your doctor or pharmacist before you stop taking Sodium Valproate Tablets.

The manufacturer of Sodium Valproate Tablets is GlaxoSmithKline UK Limited.

What Sodium Valproate Tablets are used for

What are Sodium Valproate Tablets used for?

Sodium Valproate Tablets are used to:

• treat epilepsy
• prevent and treat convulsions when you have a fit

3. How to take Sodium Valproate Tablets

3.1 Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breast feeding

If you are planning to have a baby, first schedule an appointment with your doctor. During this visit your doctor will make several actions in place so that your pregnancy and problems with development which can be associated with valproate use.

• If you are a parent or a caregiver of a female child who has taken valproate, you should talk to your doctor.

• You must get regular (at least annual) medical check-ups during your entire treatment with Sodium Valproate Tablets. Your doctor will discuss this with you.

• Pregnancy must be excluded before start of treatment with Sodium Valproate Tablets. (where the bones and muscles of the spine and upper part of the spinal cord do not form properly. Some babies who take valproate around 10 babies in every 100 will have birth defects. This means that the risks associated with valproate are not only present in pregnant women who take valproate in pregnancy. Other medicines and Sodium Valproate Tablets

• The manufacturers may refer you to a specialist for advice on birth control.

• Other medicines used to treat fits (epilepsy)

• Some medicines used for the prevention and treatment of depression (e.g. selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)) such as fluoxetine, sertraline, paroxetine, citalopram, escitalopram, fluvoxamine, venlafaxine, mirtazapine, tranylcypromine, venlafaxine, tianeptine, maprotiline, mianserin, amitriptyline or nortriptyline

• Medicines for depression, such as amitriptyline or nortriptyline

• Medicines for anxiety, such as diazepam, clonazepam and felbamate

• Some other medicines used to treat fits (epilepsy)

• Anti-epileptics such as sodium valproate have side effects, whilst taking this medicine. If this happens tell your doctor immediately.

• Sodium phenylbutyrate, used to treat urea cycle disorders

• Ethosuximide and oxcarbazepine, used to treat absence epilepsy

• Topiramate, acetazolamide, lamotrigine, carbamazepine, gabapentin, phenobarbital, phenytoin, zonisamide, levetiracetam, pregabalin, levetiracetam

• Some medicines used for the prevention and treatment of migraines (e.g. beta-blockers)

• Antidepressants such as tricyclic antidepressants, serotonin reuptake inhibitors, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and selective noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (SNRIS)

• Medicines used for depression, such as tricyclic antidepressants, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and selective noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (SNRIS)

• Medicines used for anxiety, such as diazepam, clonazepam and felbamate

• Medicines used for other conditions

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I AM PREGNANT AND I AM USING SODIUM VALPROATE

Do not start taking Sodium Valproate tablets, unless you have talked to your doctor or pharmacist about it and your doctor has agreed that you should.

Before you start treatment with Sodium Valproate tablets, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you:

• have become pregnant
• plan to become pregnant
• plan to breastfeed

Your doctor will decide whether or not you should continue taking Sodium Valproate tablets while you are pregnant.

In the past, severe birth defects have been reported in women who have taken Sodium Valproate tablets while pregnant. The risk may depend on how much Sodium Valproate you have taken. The risk may also depend on how long you have taken Sodium Valproate and when in the pregnancy you stopped taking it.

Your doctor will carefully monitor your weight and height when you are taking Sodium Valproate tablets.

Your doctor will advise you whether you should continue taking Sodium Valproate tablets while you are breastfeeding.

Your doctor will advise you whether you should continue taking Sodium Valproate tablets while you are planning to have a baby.

Your doctor will advise you whether you should continue taking Sodium Valproate tablets if you are using contraception.

Your doctor will advise you whether you should continue taking Sodium Valproate tablets if you are planning to have a baby.

Your doctor will advise you whether you should continue taking Sodium Valproate tablets if you are planning to nurse a baby.

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