

Topiramate is an antiepileptic medication that is also used to prevent migraines. It works by reducing abnormal electrical activity in the brain. It can be used alone or in combination with other medications. It also potentially has a role in the management of tic disorders. However, Topiramate is primarily used to treat epilepsy, in both adults and children. It is also used to prevent migraines in adults.

It is often the drug of choice in the management of idiopathic intracranial hypertension for its role for both reducing intracranial pressure and as a headache preventative.

Like many antiepileptic drugs, topiramate can have side effects. Some of the most common side effects include dizziness, fatigue, weight loss, and decreased appetite. It may also cause memory problems, difficulty concentrating, or confusion. Other less common side effects include vision changes, kidney stones, and mood changes.

Topiramate is known to be teratogenic, meaning that it can cause harm to a developing foetus if taken during pregnancy. It has been associated with an increased risk of cleft lip and palate, as well as other birth defects. Women of childbearing age who take topiramate should use highly effective contraception to prevent pregnancy.

There is a small, but increased risk of kidney stones on this medication, so it is essential to keep well hydrated whilst taking topiramate.

Regular monitoring may be required while taking topiramate. Blood tests may be done to check for liver or kidney problems.

Regular eye exams may be recommended to monitor for vision changes. There is a small risk of acute closed angle glaucoma with topiramate. With this the pressure within the eye becomes raised causing redness and pain. It requires urgent ophthalmology assessment and treatment to prevent visual loss.

If you experience any unusual side effects or symptoms while taking topiramate, you should consult your specialist or GP.