

Package leaflet: Information for the user
Sabril® 500 mg film-coated tablets

vigabatrin

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Sabril is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Sabril
3. How to take Sabril
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Sabril
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Sabril is and what it is used for

Sabril is used to help control various forms of epilepsy. It is used together with your current medication to treat “difficult to control” epilepsy. It will initially be prescribed by a specialist. Your response to the treatment will be monitored. It is also used to control infantile spasms (West’s syndrome).

2. What you need to know before you take Sabril

Do not take Sabril

- if you are allergic to vigabatrin or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor before taking Sabril if:

- You are breast feeding
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- You have or have had depression or any other psychiatric illness in the past
- You have had any kidney problems
- You have had any problems with your eyes

Visual field loss (loss of sight from the edges of your field of vision) may occur during treatment with Sabril. You should discuss this possibility with your doctor before you begin treatment with this medicine. This visual field loss may be severe, up to tunnel vision or loss of vision, and irreversible, so it must be found early. A deterioration of this visual field loss after the treatment is discontinued cannot be excluded. It is important that you inform your doctor promptly if you become aware of any change to your vision. Your doctor should perform a visual field examination and visual acuity testing, before you start taking Sabril and at regular intervals during the treatment. Sabril may cause reduced vision due to eye problems such as retinal disorder, blurred vision, optic atrophy or optic neuritis (see section 4). If your vision changes consult your ophthalmologist.

If you develop symptoms like sleepiness, reduced consciousness and movements (stupor) or confusion consult your doctor who will decide upon a dose reduction or withdrawal.

A small number of people being treated with anti-epileptics have had thoughts of harming or killing themselves. If at any time you have these thoughts, immediately contact your doctor.

Children

Movement disorders and abnormalities in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scans have been seen in young infants treated for infantile spasms (West’s syndrome). If you observe unusual movement disorders in the child, consult your doctor

who will decide if it is necessary to consider changing the treatment.

Other medicines and Sabril

Please tell your doctor if you are taking clonazepam as the concomitant use with Sabril can increase the risk of sedation. Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. Sabril should not be used in combination with other medicines that may have side effects related to the eye.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine.

Do not take Sabril during pregnancy unless your doctor tells you to. Sabril may cause problems to unborn children.

However, do not stop taking the medicine suddenly because this may risk the mother’s health as well as the baby’s health.

Sabril passes into breast milk. If you are breast-feeding ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine. Breast-feeding should not be done during treatment.

Driving and using machines

Do not drive or operate machinery if your epilepsy is uncontrolled.

Sabril sometimes causes symptoms like drowsiness or dizziness and your ability to concentrate and react may be reduced. If such symptoms occur whilst taking Sabril, you should not do any hazardous tasks such as driving or operating machinery.

Visual disorders, which can affect your ability to drive and use machines, have been found in some patients taking this medicine. If you wish to continue driving you must be tested regularly (every six months) for the presence of visual disorders even if you do not notice any changes to your vision.

3. How to take Sabril

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. It is important to follow your doctor’s instructions exactly. Never change the dose yourself. The doctor prescribes the dose and adjusts it individually for patients.

The usual starting dose for adults is 1 g (2 tablets) daily. However, your doctor may wish to increase or decrease the dose depending on your response; the usual adult daily dose is 2 to 3 g (4 to 6 tablets). The highest recommended dose is 3 g/day.

If you are older people and/or have kidney problems, your doctor may wish to give you a smaller dose.

Use in children

Resistant partial epilepsy

For children, the dose is based on age and weight. The usual starting dose for children is 40 milligrams per kilogram bodyweight daily. The following table gives the number of tablets to give to a child according to his/her bodyweight. Remember that this is just a guideline. The child’s doctor may wish to have slightly different doses.

Bodyweight	10-15 kg	0.5 – 1 g (1-2 tablets)/day
	15-30 kg	1-1.5 g (2-3 tablets)/day
	30-50 kg	1.5-3 g (3-6 tablets)/day
	greater than 50 kg	2-3 g (4-6 tablets)/day (adult dose).

Children with infantile spasms (West’s Syndrome)

The recommended starting dose for infants with West’s Syndrome (infantile spasms) is 50 milligrams per kilogram bodyweight per day although higher doses may be used sometimes.

Method of administration

The route of administration is oral use (by mouth). Always swallow the tablet with at least a half of a drinking glass of water. You can take Sabril before or after meals. The daily dose can be taken as a single dose or divided in two doses.

If you take more Sabril than you should

If you or your child accidentally take too many Sabril tablets, tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest hospital or Poison Information Centre.

Possible signs of overdose include drowsiness or loss / depressed level of consciousness.

If you forget to take Sabril

If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you do remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, just take one dose. Do not take a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

If you stop taking Sabril

Do not stop taking this medicine without talking to your doctor. If your doctor decides to stop your treatment you will be advised to gradually reduce the dose. Do not stop suddenly as this may cause your seizures to occur again.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

As with other antiepileptic medicines, some patients may experience an increase in the number of seizures (fits) whilst taking this medicine. If this happens to you, or to your child, contact your doctor immediately.

Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience:

Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- Visual field changes - About 1/3 or 33 out of 100 patients treated with Sabril may have changes in the visual field (narrow visual field). This "visual field defect" can range from mild to severe. It is usually detected after months or years of treatment with Sabril. The changes in the visual field may be irreversible, so it must be found early. If you or your child experience(s) visual disturbances, contact your doctor or hospital immediately.

Other side effects include:

Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- Tiredness and pronounced sleepiness
- Joint pain

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Headache
- Weight gain
- Shaking (tremor)
- Swelling (oedema)
- Dizziness
- Sensation of numbness or tingling (pins and needles)
- Disturbance of concentration and memory
- Psychological disturbances including agitation, aggression, nervousness, irritability, depression, thought disturbance and paranoia, insomnia. These side effects are usually reversible when the dose is reduced or gradually discontinued. However, do not decrease your dose without first talking to your doctor. Contact your doctor if you experience these side effects.
- Nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain
- Blurred vision, double vision and rapid involuntary movement of the eye
- Speech disorder
- Decrease in the number of red blood cells (anaemia)
- Unusual hair loss or thinning (alopecia)

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Lack of coordination in movements or fumbling
- More severe psychological disturbances such as hypomania, mania and psychosis
- Skin rash

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Serious allergic reaction, which causes swelling of the face or throat: If you experience these symptoms, you should tell your doctor immediately.

- Hives or nettle rash
- Marked sedation, stupor and confusion. These side effects are usually reversible when the dose is reduced or gradually discontinued. However, do not decrease your dose without first talking to your doctor. Contact your doctor if you experience these side effects.
- Suicide attempt
- Other eye problems such as retinal disorder

Very rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)

- Other eye problems such as optic neuritis and optic atrophy
- Hallucinations
- Liver problems

Not known frequency (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- Decreased sharpness of vision
- Abnormal changes in brain pictures taken by MRI
- Swelling in the protective layer of nerve cells in part of the brain as observed in MRI pictures

Additional side effects in children

Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- Excitation or restless

Not known frequency (frequency cannot be estimated from available data)

- Movement disorders in young infants treated for infantile spasm.
- Abnormal changes in brain pictures taken by MRI, particularly in infants
- Swelling in the protective layer of nerve cells in part of the brain as observed in MRI pictures, particularly in infants

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRAs Pharmacovigilance Website: www.hpra.ie By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Sabril

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use Sabril after the expiry date which is stated on the outer cardboard box and blisters. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 25 °C.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Sabril contains

- The active substance is vigabatrin. One film-coated tablet contains 500 mg vigabatrin.

– The other ingredients are:

Tablet Core:

Povidone K30 (E1201), Microcrystalline cellulose (E460), Sodium starch glycollate (type A), Magnesium stearate

Tablet Coating:

Hypromellose 15 mPa.s (E464), Titanium dioxide (E171), Macrogol 8000

What Sabril looks like and contents of the pack

Sabril appears as white to off-white, oval, biconvex film-coated tablets with a break-line on one side and "Sabril" engraved on the other side.

It is available in clear blisters or opaque blisters of 10 tablets. Each blister pack contains 100 tablets.

Manufacturer:

Sanofi-synthelabo Limited, Chapeltown Distribution Centre, 51
Cart Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S35 2PF,
United Kingdom or Patheon France SA, Boulevard de
Champaret, 38300 Bourgoin-Jallieu, France.

**Product procured from within the EU, repackaged and
distributed by** PCO Manufacturing Ltd., Unit 10, Ashbourne
Business Park, Rath, Ashbourne, Co. Meath, Ireland.

Product Authorisation number:

Sabril 500mg Film-coated Tablets – PPA 465/203/1

Sabril is a registered trademark of Aventisub LLC.

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