

MEDICATION	TREATMENT	POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS
<b>FIRST LINE DRUGS</b>		
<b>Phenytoin</b> Available as <i>Dilantin</i> (tablets, capsules, syrup, injection)	Effective against generalised tonic clonic and partial seizures. Not effective against absence seizures.	Nausea, vomiting, constipation, poor appetite, headaches, dizziness, drowsiness, muscle twitches, sleeplessness, swollen tender gums, excess hair growth, coarsening of facial features, blurred or double vision, slurred speech, unsteadiness on the feet, jerky movements of eyes, confusion. (Very rare is joint swelling, pain and muscle aches).
<b>Sodium Valproate</b> Available as <i>Epilim</i> (tablets, syrup)	Effective against primary generalised epilepsies (tonic clonic, absences, myoclonic). May be used for partial seizures.	Nausea, vomiting, stomach upset, diarrhoea, increased appetite, weight gain, fluid retention, sweating, excessive thirst and urination, bed wetting, hair loss, skin rash. (Very rare is liver damage, inflammation of pancreas, decreased number of blood platelets).
<b>Carbamazepine</b> Available as <i>Tegretol</i> (tablets, syrup)	Effective against partial seizures. May be used for generalised seizures. Not effective against absence seizures.	Drowsiness, dizziness, unsteadiness, ringing in the ears, increased sensitivity to sound, blurred or double vision, pins and needles or numbness in the extremities, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pains, poor appetite, diarrhoea, constipation, gastric irritation, frequent urination, allergic skin reaction. (Very rare is liver inflammation, impaired kidney function).
<b>Ethosuximide</b> Available as <i>Zarontin</i> (capsules, syrup)	Effective against absence seizures only.	Nausea, vomiting, stomach upset, poor appetite, weight loss, abdominal pains, diarrhoea, headache, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue, poor concentration, hyperactivity, irritability, hiccups, swollen tender gums, excess hair growth.
<b>SECOND LINE DRUGS</b> continues over page		
<b>Lamotrigine</b> Available as <i>Lamictal</i> (tablets)	Partial and generalised seizures in adults and children. Recent studies suggest it is useful in treating refractory epilepsies.	Dizziness, headache, double vision, unsteady gait or poor balance, drowsiness, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, weakness or fatigue.  Rash (more likely if person already taking Epilim) - should be reported to doctor immediately.  Lower doses should be used if on Epilim.
<b>Gabapentin</b> Available as <i>Neurontin</i> (capsules)	Treatment of partial seizures, including secondarily generalised tonic clonic seizures, initially as add-on therapy for adults and children over 12 years, not controlled by other medications.  Note: Not effective in treating absence seizures, and may make them worse.	Drowsiness, sedation, dizziness, ataxia, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, blurred vision, weight gain, unsteady gait, involuntary movement of eyeballs, memory disturbances, nervousness, dry mouth, muscle ache.  Mild itch or rash - see doctor promptly.

MEDICATION	TREATMENT	POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS
<b>SECOND LINE DRUGS</b> continued		
<b>Vigabatrin</b> Available as <i>Sabril</i> (tablets, sachets or oral powder)	For the treatment of epilepsy previously not controlled by other measures, particularly partial seizures. Considered useful in treatment of infantile spasms.  Note: May make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.	Drowsiness or sedation, fatigue, anxiety, dizziness, headache, memory disturbances, double vision, unsteady gait, insomnia, irritability, weight gain, nausea, constipation, stomach pains. (Children - agitation, excitement, insomnia, behavioural difficulties). Loss of peripheral vision - should have visual field tests every 6 months.
<b>Topiramate</b> Available as <i>Topamax</i> (Tablets)	Add-on therapy in adults with partial onset of seizures, with or without secondarily generalised seizures.	Fatigue, weight decrease, dizziness, confusion, depression, agitation, hallucination, poor coordination, speech disorder, kidney stones, acute myopia or short sightedness.
<b>Tiagabine</b> Available as <i>Gabitril</i> (Tablets)	Add-on therapy in adults and older children in the treatment of partial seizures which have not responded to other medications.	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dizziness, tiredness, headache, insomnia, poor concentration, loss of coordination.
<b>Clonazepam</b> Available as <i>Rivotril</i> (tablets, syrup, injection)	(Benzodiazepine)  Effective against most types of epilepsy in infants, children and adults especially absences, myoclonic, tonic & tonic clonic, whether due to primary or secondarily generalised epilepsy; but tolerance often develops.	Sedation, drowsiness, poor coordination, behaviour problems, excessive saliva, fatigue, muscle weakness, vertigo, lightheadedness, tiredness, sleepiness, dizziness.
<b>Diazepam</b> Available as <i>Valium</i> (tablets, injection, rectal preparation)	(Benzodiazepine)  Not recommended for maintenance treatment. Usually reserved for intermittent and emergency use.	Sedation, weakness, headache, daytime drowsiness, lack of coordination, poor concentration, impaired memory and learning, blurred or double vision.
<b>Primidone</b> Available as <i>Alysoline</i> (Tablets)	(Barbiturate anti-epileptic)  Effective against most forms of partial and generalised epilepsy, however is not effective in treating absence seizures.	Sedation, visual disturbances, nausea, headache, drowsiness, sedation, slowing of mental performance.
<b>Oxcarbazepine</b> Available as <i>Trileptal</i>	Add-on therapy for the treatment of primary generalised and partial seizures.	Tiredness, dizziness, headache, clumsiness, agitation, blurred vision, nausea, lack of energy, constipation, diarrhoea, abdominal pain.
<b>Levetiracetam</b> Available as <i>Keppra</i>	Add-on therapy in the treatment or partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation.	Somnolence, fatigue, coordination difficulties, behavioural abnormalities, loss of strength, dizziness.
<b>Clobazam</b> Available as <i>Frisium</i> (tablets)	(Benzodiazepine)  For the treatment of myoclonic epilepsy.	Sedation, weakness, headache, daytime drowsiness, lack of coordination, poor concentration, impaired memory and learning, blurred or double vision.