

TAKING SODIUM VALPROATE? IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

Sodium valproate is an effective medicine
for epilepsy and bipolar disorder

Let's find out
how to use
your medicine safely



Taking sodium valproate?

What girls or women should do:

- Always use **effective birth control (contraception)** such as implants or intrauterine devices (IUDs) while taking sodium valproate.

Taking sodium valproate during pregnancy may cause:

- 🧒 Serious harm to the baby
- 🧠 Problems with a child's development, learning, or behaviour

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions. Your doctor can discuss steps to help reduce these risks, where appropriate.

Never stop taking sodium valproate unless advised to do so by your doctor.



Taking sodium valproate?

Advice for girls or women

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Thinking of getting pregnant?



SCENARIO

- Speak to your doctor before planning a pregnancy.



WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- **CONTINUE** taking your sodium valproate and contraception until you consult your doctor.



WHO TO CONTACT

- See your doctor.

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Pregnant or think you may be pregnant?



SCENARIO

- You are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.



WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- **DO NOT STOP** taking sodium valproate or alter the dose without medical advice.



WHO TO CONTACT

- See your doctor as soon as possible.
DO NOT wait until your next appointment.

Taking sodium valproate?

Advice for men

Sodium valproate use in men can affect fertility and may increase the risk of learning or developmental problems in children conceived while the father is taking the medicine.

Planning a family?

- Speak to your doctor before trying to conceive with your partner.

CONTINUE taking your sodium valproate unless your doctor advises you to stop.



Taking sodium valproate and planning a family?



Never stop taking sodium valproate unless your doctor tells you.



Before trying for a baby

- Seek advice from your doctor or pharmacist



Discuss your concerns

- Discuss any concerns about fertility or risks to future children.



Obtain information and support

- Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a patient card and information leaflet.

REPORT

Report all **adverse events** suspected to be related to the use of any medicine **to the NPRA.**

National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA)
www.npra.gov.my