

DIVALPROEX/DIVALPROATE/ VALPROIC ACID

Divalproex/Divalproate/Valproic acid is an anticonvulsant that helps stabilize mood, therefore, it is also known as a mood stabilizer. It may also be used to manage seizure disorders and migraines.

As a mood stabilizer, Divalproex is used in the treatment of acute mania in bipolar disorder. It is also used in the treatment of depression, panic disorders, behavior disturbances, post-traumatic stress disorder, borderline personality disorder, schizophrenia and pain syndromes.

The mania of bipolar disorder (as well as depression and schizophrenia) are illnesses that occur due to imbalances of certain chemicals or "messengers" in the brain.

Divalproex/Valproic Acid works to restore the balance of certain brain chemicals, stabilizing mood.

Benefits from Divalproex/Divalproate/ Valproic acid

May help to treat the symptoms of mood disorders as well as prevent mood episodes.

It may be more effective at preventing and treating manic episodes than depressive episodes.

Proper Use

Take this medication ONLY as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take more of it, or use it more often than recommended.

In the treatment of acute mania, response should occur within a few days, once the

appropriate dose is reached. For mood stabilization, it may take several weeks to a month to see full benefit.

Do not stop this medication suddenly without consulting your doctor.

If you forget to take a dose, you should take it as soon as possible. If it is close to the time of your next dose, you should skip the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. Do NOT take two doses at once.

Possible Side Effects of Divalproex/Valproic Acid

- ❖ Drowsiness, fatigue & difficulty concentrating
- ❖ Blurred vision
- ❖ Dry mouth
- ❖ Nausea/vomiting
- ❖ Weight changes
- ❖ Irregular periods or menstruation

Most of these side effects disappear with treatment, while others may not. You may experience other side effects not listed here. Please check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if any side effect becomes bothersome.

Increases in weight can occur with this medication. Healthy eating and regular exercise will reduce the chance of this occurring.

Inform your Doctor as soon as possible if you develop:

- ❖ Soreness of mouth, gums or throat, mouth lesions
- ❖ Weakness, fever or flu-like symptoms
- ❖ Confusion or disorientation
- ❖ Easy bruising or bleeding
- ❖ Unusual eye movements

- ❖ Severe dizziness, falls or unsteadiness
- ❖ Shaking or tremor

Many of these side effects can be controlled either by a dosage adjustment or by the addition of another medication.

Let your doctor know **as soon as possible** if you miss your period or suspect you may be **pregnant**

Storage of Medication

Store away from heat and direct light.

AVOID storing in the bathroom medicine cabinet as the heat or moisture may cause the medication to breakdown.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

Precautions

- Always inform your doctor, nurse, dentist or pharmacist about your medication before any treatment
- As Divalproex/Valproic acid may interact with other medications, check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other prescription
- Divalproex/Valproic acid may interact with over-the-counter medications including antacids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (examples include ibuprofen or aspirin), check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any of these medications
- Check with your doctor before drinking alcoholic beverages while taking this medication
- Tell your doctor if you are **pregnant** or **breast-feeding** before you take this medication

