

Package Leaflet: Information for the patient

Levetiracetam UCB 500 mg film-coated tablets Levetiracetam

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, health care provider or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor, health care provider or pharmacist.

In this leaflet

- a). What Levetiracetam UCB is and what it is used for
- b). Before you take Levetiracetam UCB
- c). How to take Levetiracetam UCB
- d). Possible side effects
- e). How to store Levetiracetam UCB
- f). Further information

a). WHAT LEVETIRACETAM UCB IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Levetiracetam is an antiepileptic medicine (a medicine used to treat seizures in epilepsy).

Levetiracetam UCB is used:

- on its own in adults and adolescents from 16 years of age with newly diagnosed epilepsy, to treat a certain form of epilepsy. Epilepsy is a condition where the patients have repeated fits (seizures). Levetiracetam is used for the epilepsy form in which the fits initially affect only one side of the brain but could thereafter extend to larger areas on both sides of the brain (partial onset seizure with or without secondary generalisation). Levetiracetam has been given to you by your doctor to reduce the number of fits.
- as an add-on to other antiepileptic medicines to treat:
 - partial onset seizures with or without generalisation in adults, adolescents, children and infants from one month of age;
 - myoclonic seizures (short, shock-like jerks of a muscle or group of muscles) in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy;
 - primary generalised tonic-clonic seizures (major fits, including loss of consciousness) in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age with idiopathic generalised epilepsy (the type of epilepsy that is thought to have a genetic cause).

b). BEFORE YOU TAKE LEVETIRACETAM UCB

Do not take Levetiracetam UCB

- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to levetiracetam, pyrrolidone derivatives or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in Section f)).

Take special care with Levetiracetam UCB

- If you suffer from kidney problems, follow your doctor's instructions. He/she may decide if your dose should be adjusted.
- If you notice any slowdown in the growth or unexpected puberty development of your child, please contact your doctor.

- A small number of people being treated with anti-epileptics such as Levetiracetam UCB have had thoughts of harming or killing themselves. If you have any symptoms of depression and/or suicidal ideation, please contact your doctor.
- If you have a family or medical history of irregular heart rhythm (visible on an electrocardiogram), or if you have a disease and/or take a treatment that make(s) you prone to heartbeat irregularities or salt imbalances.

Tell your doctor, health care provider or pharmacist if any of the following side effects gets serious or last longer than a few days:

- Abnormal thoughts, feeling irritable or reacting more aggressively than usually, or if you or your family and friends notice important changes in mood or behaviour.
- Aggravation of epilepsy:
Your seizures may rarely become worse or happen more often, mainly during the first month after the start of the treatment or increase of the dose.
In a very rare form of early-onset epilepsy (epilepsy associated with SCN8A mutations) that causes multiple types of seizures and loss of skills you may notice that the seizures remain present or are becoming worse during your treatment.

If you experience any of these new symptoms while taking Levetiracetam UCB, see a doctor as soon as possible.

Children and adolescents

- Levetiracetam UCB is not indicated in children and adolescents below 16 years on its own (monotherapy).

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor, health care provider or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Do not take macrogol (a drug used as laxative) for one hour before and one hour after taking levetiracetam as this may result in a loss of its effect.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine. Levetiracetam can be used during pregnancy, only if after careful assessment it is considered necessary by your doctor.

You should not stop your treatment without discussing this with your doctor.

A risk of birth defects for your unborn child cannot be completely excluded.

Breast-feeding is not recommended during treatment.

Driving and using machines

Levetiracetam UCB may impair your ability to drive or operate any tools or machinery, as it may make you feel sleepy. This is more likely at the beginning of treatment or after an increase in the dose. Do not drive or use any tools or machines until it is established that your ability to perform such activities is not affected.

c). HOW TO TAKE LEVETIRACETAM UCB

Always take Levetiracetam UCB exactly as your doctor or health care provider has told you. Check with your doctor, health care provider or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Take the number of tablets following your doctor's instructions.

Levetiracetam UCB must be taken twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening, at about the same time each day.

Adjunctive Therapy and monotherapy (from 16 years of age)

- **Adults (≥18 years) and adolescents (12 to 17 years) weighing 50 kg or more:**
Recommended dose: between 1000 mg and 3000 mg each day.
When you will first start taking Levetiracetam UCB, your doctor will prescribe you a **lower dose** during 2 weeks before giving you the lowest daily dose.
Example: if your daily dose is intended to be 1000 mg, your reduced starting dose is 1 tablet of 250 mg in the morning and 1 tablet of 250 mg in the evening, and the dose will be gradually incremented to reach 1000 mg daily after 2 weeks.
- **Adolescents (12 to 17 years) weighing 50 kg or less:**
Your doctor will prescribe the most appropriate pharmaceutical form of Levetiracetam UCB according to weight and dose.
- **Dose in infants (1 month to 23 months) and children (2 to 11 years) weighing less than 50 kg:**
Your doctor will prescribe the most appropriate pharmaceutical form of Levetiracetam UCB according to the age, weight and dose.

Levetiracetam UCB 100 mg/ml oral solution is a formulation more appropriate to infants and children under the age of 6 years and to children and adolescent (from 6 to 17 years) weighing less than 50kg and when tablets don't allow accurate dosage.

Method of administration

Swallow Levetiracetam UCB tablets with a sufficient quantity of liquid (e.g. a glass of water). You may take Levetiracetam UCB with or without food. After oral administration the bitter taste of levetiracetam may be experienced.

Duration of treatment

- Levetiracetam UCB is used as a chronic treatment. You should continue Levetiracetam UCB treatment for as long as your doctor has told you.
- Do not stop your treatment without your doctor's advice as this could increase your seizures.

If you take more Levetiracetam UCB than you should

The possible side effects of an overdose of Levetiracetam UCB are sleepiness, agitation, aggression, decrease of alertness, inhibition of breathing and coma.

Contact your doctor if you took more tablets than you should. Your doctor will establish the best possible treatment of overdose.

If you forget to take Levetiracetam UCB:

Contact your doctor if you have missed one or more doses.

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

If you stop taking Levetiracetam UCB:

If stopping treatment, Levetiracetam UCB should be discontinued gradually to avoid an increase of seizures. Should your doctor decide to stop your Levetiracetam UCB treatment, he/she will instruct you about the gradual withdrawal of Levetiracetam UCB.

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

d). POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Levetiracetam UCB can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Tell your doctor immediately, or go to your nearest emergency department, if you experience:

- weakness, feel light-headed or dizzy or have difficulty breathing, as these may be signs of a serious allergic (anaphylactic) reaction
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue and throat (Quincke's oedema)
- flu-like symptoms and a rash on the face followed by an extended rash with a high temperature, increased levels of liver enzymes seen in blood tests and an increase in a type of white blood cell (eosinophilia) and enlarged lymph nodes (Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms [DRESS])
- symptoms such as low urine volume, tiredness, nausea, vomiting, confusion and swelling in the legs, ankles or feet, as this may be a sign of sudden decrease of kidney function
- a skin rash which may form blisters and look like small targets (central dark spots surrounded by a paler area, with a dark ring around the edge) (*erythema multiforme*)
- a widespread rash with blisters and peeling skin, particularly around the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals (*Stevens-Johnson syndrome*)
- a more severe form of rash causing skin peeling in more than 30% of the body surface (*toxic epidermal necrolysis*)
- signs of serious mental changes or if someone around you notices signs of confusion, somnolence (sleepiness), amnesia (loss of memory), memory impairment (forgetfulness), abnormal behaviour or other neurological signs including involuntary or uncontrolled movements. These could be symptoms of an encephalopathy.

The most frequently reported side effects are nasopharyngitis, somnolence (sleepiness), headache, fatigue and dizziness. At the beginning of the treatment or at dose increase side effects like sleepiness, tiredness and dizziness may be more common. These effects should however decrease over time.

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people

- nasopharyngitis;
- somnolence (sleepiness), headache.

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- anorexia (loss of appetite);
- depression, hostility or aggression, anxiety, insomnia, nervousness or irritability;
- convulsion, balance disorder (equilibrium disorder), dizziness (sensation of unsteadiness), lethargy (lack of energy and enthusiasm), tremor (involuntary trembling);
- vertigo (sensation of rotation);
- cough;
- abdominal pain, diarrhoea, dyspepsia (indigestion), vomiting, nausea;
- rash;
- asthenia/fatigue (tiredness).

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- decreased number of blood platelets, decreased number of white blood cells;
- weight decrease, weight increase;
- suicide attempt and suicidal ideation, mental disorder, abnormal behaviour, hallucination, anger, confusion, panic attack, emotional instability/mood swings, agitation;
- amnesia (loss of memory), memory impairment (forgetfulness), abnormal coordination/ataxia (impaired coordinated movements), paraesthesia (tingling), disturbance in attention (loss of concentration);
- diplopia (double vision), vision blurred;
- elevated/abnormal values in a liver function test;
- hair loss, eczema, pruritus;
- muscle weakness, myalgia (muscle pain);
- injury.

Rare: may affect up to 1 in 1000 people

- infection;

- decreased number of all blood cell types;
- severe allergic reactions (DRESS, anaphylactic reaction [severe and important allergic reaction], Quincke's oedema [swelling of the face, lips, tongue and throat]);
- decreased blood sodium concentration;
- suicide, personality disorders (behavioural problems), thinking abnormal (slow thinking, unable to concentrate);
- delirium;
- encephalopathy (see sub-section "Tell your doctor immediately" for a detailed description of symptoms);
- seizures may become worse or happen more often;
- repeated unwanted thoughts or sensations or the urge to do something over and over again (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder);
- uncontrollable muscle spasms affecting the head, torso and limbs, difficulty in controlling movements, hyperkinesia (hyperactivity);
- change of the heart rhythm (Electrocardiogram);
- pancreatitis;
- liver failure, hepatitis;
- sudden decrease in kidney function;
- skin rash, which may form blisters and looks like small targets (central dark spots surrounded by a paler area, with a dark ring around the edge) (erythema multiforme), a widespread rash with blisters and peeling skin, particularly around the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals (Stevens–Johnson syndrome), and a more severe form causing skin peeling in more than 30% of the body surface (toxic epidermal necrolysis);
- rhabdomyolysis (breakdown of muscle tissue) and associated blood creatine phosphokinase increase. Prevalence is significantly higher in Japanese patients when compared to non-Japanese patients.
- limp or difficulty walking;
- combination of fever, muscle stiffness, unstable blood pressure and heart rate, confusion, low level of consciousness (may be signs of a disorder called neuroleptic malignant syndrome). Prevalence is significantly higher in Japanese patients when compared to non-Japanese patients.

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor, health care provider or pharmacist.

e). HOW TO STORE LEVETIRACETAM UCB

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not store above 30° C.

Store in the original package in order to protect from moisture.

Do not use Levetiracetam UCB after the expiry date stated on the carton box and blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of the month.

Do not use Levetiracetam UCB if you notice visible signs of deterioration e.g. broken tablets or discoloration.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help protect the environment.

f). Further information

What Levetiracetam UCB contains

The active substance is called levetiracetam.

One tablet of Levetiracetam UCB 500 mg contains 500 mg of levetiracetam.

The other ingredients are:

Tablet core: croscarmellose sodium, macrogol 6000, silica colloidal anhydrous, magnesium stearate.

Film-coating: Polyvinyl alcohol-part. hydrolyzed, titanium dioxide (E171), macrogol 3350, talc, colourants*.

* The colourants are:

500 mg tablet: iron oxide yellow (E172)

What Levetiracetam UCB looks like and contents of the pack

Levetiracetam UCB 500 mg film-coated tablets are yellow, 16 mm oblong, scored and debossed with the code “ucb” and “500” on one side.

The tablet can be divided into equal doses.

- 500 mg: 20, 50, 60, 100 film-coated tablets and multipacks containing 200 (2 packs of 100) film-coated tablets

The packs are available in standard aluminium/PVC blisters.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder

UCB Pharma SA, Allée de la Recherche 60, B-1070 Brussels, Belgium.

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or **Aesica Pharmaceuticals S.r.l., Via Praglia 15, I-10044 Pianezza, Italy**

For any information about this medicine, please contact the local representative of the supplier:

This leaflet was last approved in {MM/YYYY}