

Medication

Anticonvulsants

my medication is called



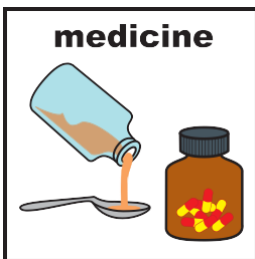
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Why have I been given this medication?



Anticonvulsant medications help you to manage your epilepsy so that you have fewer seizures, that don't last for as long and which you recover from more quickly.



The goal is to have no seizures or as few as possible so that you can live your life to the full.

Medication has to be taken every day and there are different types of medicines for different types of epilepsy. You may need to take more than one anticonvulsant to help you.

When do I take my medication?

medication advice



Your doctor will tell you when to take your medication.

Different kinds of anticonvulsants are taken in different ways.

You should take your medication the way the doctor tells you and then you can be sure it will work. If you do not take medication in the right way it may not work very well.

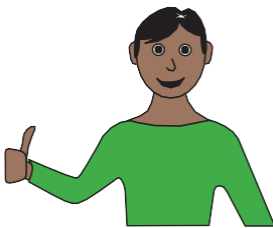
medicine



You should not stop taking your medication without talking to your doctor. Suddenly stopping your medication might make seizures start again.

When will I feel better?

feeling better



It is hard to say how long it will take for your medication to work. Some people's medication will start to work quickly within a few weeks. Other people it might take several months. If a person has more than one type of epilepsy or their epilepsy is difficult to manage they could be given more than one medicine at the same time. The best way to see if your medication is working is if you are having fewer or less severe seizures. You might want to keep a seizure diary to check this.

no seizure



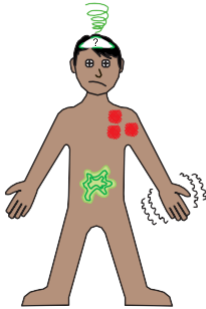
talk to your doctor



A person who has had no seizures for 2 years could ask about stopping or reducing their medication. Your medication should only be stopped slowly over several months under the supervision of your Doctor .

Will there be side effects?

side effects



Like all medication anticonvulsants can have side effects.

The side effects will be different depending on which anticonvulsant you take. Different people can have different side effects to the same medication.

Some people think the side effects are better than having seizures.

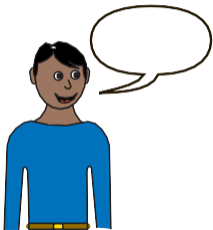
The side effects will be listed in the patient information leaflet that comes with the medication.

medication list



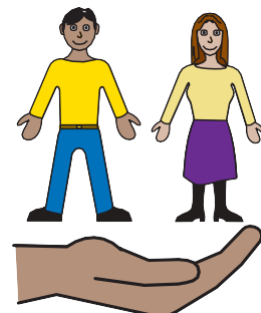
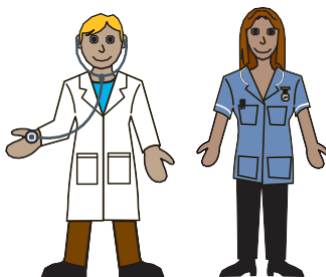
Who do I speak to if I have problems?

speak



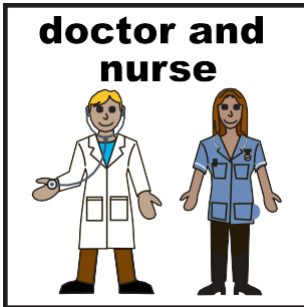
If you have any problems with your medication you should tell your

- Pharmacist • Doctor • Epilepsy specialist • Nurse • Carer





If you want more information about your medication ask your **pharmacist**



or you could ask your **doctor or nurse**



You can get information and advice about your health by calling **111** In Wales this number joins up two services NHS Direct Wales & The GP Out of Hours Service



Or visiting the NHS Choices website at **www.nhs.uk**

