

## Larig 25mg, 50mg, 100mg & 200mg Dispersible Tablets

### Lamotrigine

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any of the side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### What is in this leaflet:

1. What Larig is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Larig
3. How to take Larig
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Larig
6. Contents of the pack and other information



## 1 What Larig is and what it is used for

Larig belongs to a group of medicines called anti-epileptics. It is used to treat two conditions - **epilepsy** and **bipolar disorder**.

**Larig treats epilepsy** by blocking the signals in the brain that trigger epileptic seizures [fits].

- For adults and children aged 13 years and over, Larig can be used on its own or with other medicines, to treat epilepsy. Larig can also be used with other medicines to treat the seizures that occur with a condition called Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.
- For children aged between 2 and 12 years, Larig can be used with other medicines, to treat those conditions. It can be used on its own to treat a type of epilepsy called typical absence seizures.

#### Larig also treats bipolar disorder.

People with bipolar disorder (sometimes called manic depression) have extreme mood swings with periods of mania (excitement or euphoria) alternating with periods of depression (deep sadness or despair). For adults aged 18 years and over, Larig can be used on its own or with other medicines, to prevent the periods of depression that occur in bipolar disorder. It is not yet known how Larig works in the brain to have this effect.

## 2 What you need to know before taking Larig

#### Do not take Larig:

- if you are allergic to lamotrigine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in Section 6).

#### Warnings and precautions

**Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Larig:**

- **if you have problems with your kidneys**
- **if you have ever developed a rash** when you've taken lamotrigine or other medicines for bipolar disorder or epilepsy
- **if you have ever developed meningitis after taking lamotrigine** (*read the description of these symptoms in Section 4 of this leaflet*)
- **if you are already taking medicine that contains lamotrigine.**

If any of these apply to you:

→ **Tell your doctor**, who may decide to lower your dose, or that Larig is not suitable for you.

#### Important information about potentially serious reactions

A small number of people taking lamotrigine get an allergic reaction or potentially life-threatening skin reaction, which may develop into more serious problems if they are not treated. These can include Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS): also known as hypersensitivity syndrome (HSS). You need to know the symptoms to look out for while you are taking Larig.

→ **Read the description of these symptoms in Section 4 of this leaflet** under 'Potentially life-threatening reactions: get a doctor's help straight away'.

#### Thoughts of harming yourself or suicide

Anti-epileptic medicines are used to treat several conditions including epilepsy and bipolar disorder. People with bipolar disorder can sometimes have thoughts of harming themselves or committing suicide. If you have bipolar disorder, you may be more likely to think like this:

- when you first start treatment
- if you have previously had thoughts about harming yourself or about suicide
- if you are under 25 years old.

If you have distressing thoughts or experiences, or if you notice that you feel worse or develop new symptoms while you're taking Larig:

→ **See a doctor as soon as possible or go to the nearest hospital for help.**

A small number of people being treated with anti-epileptics such as lamotrigine have also had thoughts of harming or killing themselves. If at any time you have these thoughts, immediately contact your doctor.

#### If you are taking Larig for epilepsy

The seizures in some types of epilepsy may occasionally become worse or happen more often while you're taking Larig. Some patients may experience severe seizures which may cause serious health problems.

If your seizures happen more often or if you experience a severe seizure while you're taking Larig:

→ **See a doctor as soon as possible.**

**Larig should not be given to people aged under 18 years to treat bipolar disorder.** Medicines to treat depression and other mental health problems increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviour in children and adolescents aged under 18 years.

#### Other medicines and Larig

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines** including herbal medicines or other medicines you bought without a prescription.

If you are taking certain medicines, your doctor may

need to check the dose of Larig. These medicines include:

- **oxcarbazepine, felbamate, gabapentin, clonazepam, levetiracetam, pregabalin, topiramate or zonisamide**, used to treat **epilepsy**
- **lithium, olanzapine, haloperidol, aripiprazole or amitriptyline** used to treat **mental health problems**
- **lorazepam** used to treat **anxiety**
- **bupropion**, used to treat **mental health problems** or to **stop smoking**
- **varenicline** to stop **smoking**.

→ **Tell your doctor** if you are taking any of these.

Some medicines interact with Larig or make it more likely that you'll have side effects. These include:

- **valproate**, used to treat **epilepsy** and **mental health problems**
- **carbamazepine**, used to treat **epilepsy** and **mental health problems**
- **phenytoin, primidone or phenobarbitone**, used to treat **epilepsy**
- **risperidone**, used to treat **mental health problems**
- **rifampicin**, which is an **antibiotic**
- **medicines** used to treat **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection** (a combination of lopinavir and ritonavir or atazanavir and ritonavir)
- **hormonal contraceptives**, such as **the Pill** (see below).

→ **Tell your doctor** if you are taking, or if you start or stop taking any of these.

#### Hormonal contraceptives (such as the Pill) can affect the way Larig works

Your doctor may recommend that you use a particular type of hormonal contraceptive, or another method of contraception, such as condoms, a cap or a coil. If you are using a hormonal contraceptive like the Pill, your doctor may take samples of your blood to check the level of Larig. If you are using a hormonal contraceptive, or plan to start using one:

→ **Talk to your doctor**, who will discuss suitable methods of contraception with you.

Larig can also affect the way hormonal contraceptives work, although it's unlikely to make them less effective. If you are using a hormonal contraceptive and you notice any changes in your menstrual pattern, such as breakthrough bleeding or spotting between periods: → **Tell your doctor**. These may be signs that Larig is affecting the way your contraceptive is working.

#### Pregnancy and breast-feeding and fertility

Treatment for your epilepsy should be reviewed if you are planning to become pregnant. However, there is an increased risk of birth defects in babies whose mothers took Larig during pregnancy. These defects include cleft lip, heart problems and problems with formation of the skull or spinal cord.

Your doctor may advise you to take extra **folic acid** if you're planning to become pregnant and while you're pregnant. Pregnancy may also alter the effectiveness of Larig, so your doctor may take samples of your blood to check the level of Larig and may adjust your dose.

→ Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed. The active ingredient of Larig passes into breast milk and may affect your baby. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of breast-feeding while you are taking Larig, and will check your baby from time to time if you decide to breast-feed.

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

#### Driving and using machines

Larig can cause dizziness and double vision. **Don't drive or operate machines unless you are sure you're not affected.**

**If you have epilepsy, talk to your doctor about driving and using machines.**

#### Larig contains sorbitol

This medicinal product contains sorbitol. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

## 3 How to take Larig

**Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you.** Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you're not sure.

#### How much Larig to take

It may take a while to find the best dose of Larig for you. The dose you take will depend on:

- your age
  - whether you are taking Larig with other medicines
  - whether you have problems with your kidneys or liver.
- Your doctor will start you on a low dose, and gradually increase the dose over a few weeks until you reach a dose that works for you (called the effective dose).

**Never take more Larig than your doctor tells you to.**

The usual effective dose of Larig for adults and children aged 13 years or over is between 100 mg and 400 mg each day.

For children aged 2 to 12 years, the effective dose depends on their body weight - usually, it's between 1 mg and 15 mg for each kilogram of the child's weight, up to a maximum of 200 mg daily. Larig is not recommended for children aged under 2 years.

**How to take your dose of Larig**

Take your dose of Larig once or twice a day, as your doctor advises. You can take it with or without food.

- **Always take the full dose** that your doctor has prescribed. Never take only part of the tablet.

Your doctor may also advise you to start or stop taking other medicines, depending on what condition you're being treated for and the way you respond to treatment.

You can take Larig dispersible tablets by swallowing them whole with a little water or by dissolving them in water.

**To make a liquid medicine:**

- Put the tablet in a glass with at least enough water to cover the whole tablet
- Either stir to dissolve or wait for about a minute, until the tablet is fully dissolved
- Drink all the liquid
- Add a little more water to the glass and drink that to make sure you've taken all the medicine.

**If you take more Larig than you should**  
→ **Contact a doctor or pharmacist immediately**, if possible show them the Larig packet.

If you take too much Larig you may be more likely to have serious side effects which may be fatal. Someone who has taken too much Larig may have any of these symptoms:

- rapid, uncontrollable eye movement [nystagmus]
- clumsiness and lack of co-ordination, affecting their balance [ataxia]
- heart rhythm changes (detected usually on ECG)
- loss of consciousness, fits (convulsions) or coma.

**If you forget to take Larig**  
**Don't take extra tablets or a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. Just take your next dose at the usual time.**  
→ **Ask your doctor for advice on how to start taking it again.** It's important that you do this.

**Don't stop taking Larig without advice**  
Take Larig for as long as your doctor recommends. Don't stop unless your doctor advises you to.

**If you are taking Larig for epilepsy**  
To stop taking Larig, **it is important that your dose is reduced gradually**, over about 2 weeks. If you suddenly stop taking Larig your epilepsy may come back or get worse.

**If you are taking Larig for bipolar disorder**  
Larig may take some time to work, so you are unlikely to feel better straight away. If you stop taking Larig your dose will not need to be reduced gradually. But you should still talk to your doctor first if you want to stop taking Larig.

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

**4 Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**Potentially life-threatening reactions: get a doctor's help straight away**  
A small number of people taking Larig get an allergic reaction or potentially life-threatening skin reaction, which may develop into more serious problems if they are not treated.

These symptoms are more likely to happen during the first few months of treatment with Larig, especially if the starting dose is too high or if the dose is increased too quickly, or if Larig is taken with another medicine called valproate. Some of the symptoms are more common in children, so parents should be especially careful to watch out for them.

Symptoms of these reactions include:

**skin rashes or redness**, which may develop into life-threatening skin reactions including widespread rash with blisters and peeling skin, particularly occurring around the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals (*Stevens-Johnson syndrome*), extensive peeling of the skin (more than 30% of the body surface – *toxic epidermal necrolysis*) or extended rashes with liver, blood and other body organs involvement (DRESS)

- **ulcers in the mouth, throat, nose or genitals**
- **a sore mouth or red or swollen eyes** (*conjunctivitis*)
- **a high temperature** [fever], flu-like symptoms or drowsiness
- **swelling around your face**, or **swollen glands** in your neck, armpit or groin
- **unexpected bleeding or bruising** or your fingers turning blue
- **a sore throat**, or more infections (such as colds) than usual
- increased levels of liver enzymes seen in blood test
- an increase in a type of white blood cell (eosinophils)
- enlarged lymph nodes
- involvement of the organs of the body including liver and kidneys.

In many cases these symptoms will be signs of less serious side effects. **But you must be aware that they are potentially serious** – so, if you notice any of these symptoms:  
→ **See a doctor as soon as possible.** Your doctor may decide to carry out tests on your liver, kidneys or blood and may tell you to stop taking Larig.

**Very common:** may affect more than 1 in 10 people

- headache
- skin rash.

**Common:** may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- aggression or irritability
- feeling sleepy or drowsy
- feeling dizzy
- shaking or tremors
- difficulty in sleeping
- feeling agitated
- feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting)
- diarrhoea
- dry mouth

- feeling tired
- pain in your back or joints or elsewhere.

**Uncommon:** may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- clumsiness and lack of co-ordination (ataxia)
- double vision or blurred vision
- unusual hair loss or thinning (alopecia).

**Rare:** may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people

- itchy eyes, with discharge and crusty eyelids (*conjunctivitis*)
- a life-threatening skin reaction, with severe blisters and bleeding from the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genital area (*Stevens-Johnson syndrome*)
- rapid, uncontrollable eye movements (*nystagmus*)
- a group of symptoms together including: fever, nausea, vomiting, headache, stiff neck and extreme sensitivity to bright light. This may be caused by an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord (*meningitis*).

**Very rare:** may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people

- hallucinations ('seeing' or 'hearing' things that are not really there)
- confusion
- feeling 'wobbly' or unsteady when you move about
- uncontrollable body movements (tics), uncontrollable muscle spasms affecting the eyes, head and torso (*choreoathetosis*), or other unusual movements such as jerking, shaking or stiffness
- a life-threatening skin reaction (*toxic epidermal necrolysis*) have been reported (see section 2).
- in people who already have epilepsy, seizures happening more often
- changes in liver function, which will show up in blood tests, or liver failure
- changes which may show up in blood tests – including reduced numbers of red blood cells (*anaemia*), reduced number of white blood cells (*leucopenia*, *neutropenia*, *agranulocytosis*), reduced numbers of platelets (*thrombocytopenia*), reduced numbers of all these types of cell (*pancytopenia*) and a disorder of the bone marrow called *aplastic anaemia*
- a disorder in blood clotting which can cause unexpected bleeding or bruising (*disseminated intravascular coagulation*)
- a high temperature (fever)
- swelling around the face (*oedema*) or swollen glands in the neck, armpit or groin (*lymphadenopathy*)
- in people who already have Parkinson's disease, worsening of the symptoms
- lupus-like reaction (symptoms may include: back or joint pain which sometimes may be accompanied by fever and/or general ill health).
- Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS).

**Not known:** frequency cannot be estimated from the available data

- There have been reports of bone disorders including osteopenia and osteoporosis (thinning of the bone) and fractures. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are on long term anti-epileptic medication, have a history of osteoporosis, or take steroids.
- Nightmares.

**Reporting of side effects**  
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL-Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517. Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie); By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**5 How to store Larig**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton or blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 30°C.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

**6 Contents of the pack and other information**

What Larig contains

- **The active substance is** lamotrigine. Each Larig 25 mg, 50 mg 100 mg and 200 mg dispersible tablet contains 25, 50, 100 and 200 mg of lamotrigine, respectively.
- **The other ingredients are** calcium carbonate sorbitol, silicified microcrystalline cellulose, crospovidone XL, maize starch, talc, blackcurrant flavour, sodium saccharin, sodium stearyl fumarate and colloidal silicon dioxide.

**What Larig dispersible tablets look like and contents of the pack**  
Larig 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg and 200 mg dispersible tablets are white to off-white modified square shaped tablets, plain on one side and engraved with "L" and "25", "50", "100" and "200", respectively, on the other.

**Packaging**  
Contents of the packs:  
PVC/Alu blister: 56, 60 tablets

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturers Marketing Authorisation Holder**  
Rowex Ltd., Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland.

**Manufacturers**  
Salutas Pharma GmbH, Otto-von-Guericke Allee 1, 39179 Barleben, Germany.  
Rowa Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland.

**This leaflet was last revised in May 2017.**