



*hvc*  
human health care

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## **Zonegran® (zonisamide) Fact Sheet**

### *About Zonegran*

- Zonegran® (zonisamide) is an anti-epileptic drug (AED) approved in March 2000 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of all partial seizures in adults with epilepsy.
- Zonegran is the only once-a-day (qd) newer AED available for adults (16 and older) with epilepsy.
- The availability of 25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg strengths allows for flexible dosing as twice daily or once daily.
- Zonegran has the longest “half-life” of the newer AEDs. Half-life is the time in which the drug concentration in the blood decreases to one-half of its initial or maximum concentration.
- Zonegran has a well-established safety profile. Zonegran causes minimal cognitive impairment, minimal drug-to-drug interactions and is not associated with weight gain.
- Zonegran has been prescribed in more than one million patients worldwide.
- Zonegran does not require additional blood monitoring.

### *Seizure Control*

- Zonegran provides effective seizure control in patients using at least one other AED.
- In pivotal clinical trials, the use of Zonegran as an adjunctive therapy reduced the median percent seizure rate by 27 to 40 percent. Additionally, 28 to 42 percent of patients experienced a 50 percent or higher reduction in their seizure frequency.
- The 63-hour half-life of Zonegran helps to ensure consistent therapeutic levels in the blood.
- Zonegran works by multiple potential mechanisms of action that may impact seizure reduction.

### *Compliance*

- Patients receive maximum benefit from Zonegran when they adhere to treatment as prescribed by a physician. Zonegran offers many attributes that may help people with epilepsy comply with their medication:

-more-

- The longer half-life allows Zonegran to be taken once-a-day; research shows compliance can improve with once-daily dosing.
- Zonegran is available in multiple strengths. Flexible dosing options may make it simpler for patients to comply with recommended therapies.
- Zonegran is not associated with unwanted weight gain. Weight gain has been a common reason for noncompliance with certain AEDs.
- Zonegran can be taken with or without food, which may make it easier for patients to take.

### *Safety*

- Zonegran is well-tolerated. In clinical trials, the most commonly reported adverse events were somnolence, dizziness, anorexia, headache, nausea and agitation / irritability.
- Drug interactions are minimal with Zonegran. Zonegran does not influence the metabolism of other commonly prescribed AEDs or oral contraceptives.

### *Dosage*

- Therapy with Zonegran can be initiated up to 100 mg daily. Dosage increases can be made every two weeks as needed to achieve seizure control.
- Doses of 100 mg/day to 600 mg/day have shown to be effective. Steady state is achieved within 14 days.

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*Zonegran is not right for everyone. You should not take Zonegran if you are allergic to sulfa drugs. Call your doctor right away if you experience a rash; your seizures worsen; you experience sudden back pain, abdominal pain, or blood in your urine; fever, sore throat, or bruising easily; depression or unusual thoughts; extreme drowsiness, difficulty concentrating, or coordination problems; speech or language problems.*

*The most common side effect of Zonegran are drowsiness, loss of appetite, dizziness, headache, nausea, and agitation/irritability. These side effects usually occur within the first 4 weeks of therapy.*

*Zonegran may make you drowsy. Do not drive a car or operate complex machinery until you know how Zonegran may affect you.*

*Be sure to follow your doctor's directions on how to take Zonegran. Do not share your Zonegran with others. Do not stop taking Zonegran or any other seizure medication without consulting your doctor first.*

Full Zonegran prescribing information is attached and is available at [www.eisai.com](http://www.eisai.com).

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