

## Drug Information Table

### Valproic Acid – valproic acid (Depakote, Depacon, Depakene)

Therapeutic Use	Administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treats all seizure types</li> <li>• Controls mania in bipolar disorder</li> <li>• Prevents migraine headache</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available orally or IV</li> <li>• Give enteric-coated form and administer with food to prevent GI symptoms</li> <li>• Dilute IV form in at least 50 mL of diluents and do not mix with other drugs in solution</li> <li>• Depakote sprinkles may be opened and sprinkled on food (e.g., applesauce) before consuming</li> </ul>	
Side/Adverse Effects	Interventions	Patient Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruising, bleeding, prolonged bleeding time, decreased platelets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor bleeding time, platelet count</li> <li>• Assess for bruising, bleeding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct patient to report bruising or bleeding to provider</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, flatulence, indigestion)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give with food</li> <li>• Use ER form</li> <li>• Add H2 antagonist, such as famotidine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct patient to take with food</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skin rash</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor for rash</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct patient to report rash to provider</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neural tube defect (prevention needed if patient becomes pregnant)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give folic acid supplement to prevent neural tube defects if pregnancy occurs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise patient to contact provider if becoming pregnant</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hyperammonemia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess for vomiting, confusion, decreased level of consciousness</li> <li>• Monitor blood ammonia levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct patient/family to report decreased level of consciousness, vomiting, confusion to provider</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pancreatitis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor serum amylase if symptoms occur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct patient to report nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain to provider</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liver toxicity—may be fatal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor liver function tests before treatment and periodically during therapy</li> <li>• Assure that patient takes lowest effective dose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct patient to report abdominal pain, jaundice, nausea, anorexia to provider</li> </ul>
Contraindications	Precautions	Interactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy Risk Category D, lactation</li> <li>• Liver disorders</li> <li>• Taking other anticonvulsants</li> <li>• Thrombocytopenia</li> <li>• Hyperammonemia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kidney disease</li> <li>• Older adults</li> <li>• Children under the age of 10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increases blood levels of phenytoin and phenobarbital</li> <li>• Use with topiramate increases risk for hyperammonemia</li> </ul>