# Drug Information Table

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

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<th>Therapeutic Use</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Contraindications</th>
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| • Treats all seizure types  
  • Controls mania in bipolar disorder  
  • Prevents migraine headache | • Available orally or IV  
  • Give enteric-coated form and administer with food to prevent GI symptoms  
  • Dilute IV form in at least 50 mL of diluents and do not mix with other drugs in solution  
  • Depakote sprinkles may be opened and sprinkled on food (e.g., applesauce) before consuming | • Pregnancy Risk Category D, lactation  
  • Liver disorders  
  • Taking other anticonvulsants  
  • Thrombocytopenia  
  • Hyperammonemia |

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<tr>
<th>Side/Adverse Effects</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Precautions</th>
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| • Bruising, bleeding, prolonged bleeding time, decreased platelets | • Monitor bleeding time, platelet count  
  • Assess for bruising, bleeding | • Kidney disease  
  • Older adults  
  • Children under the age of 10 |
| • GI symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, flatulence, indigestion) | • Give with food  
  • Use ER form  
  • Add H2 antagonist, such as famotidine | • Liver disorders  
  • Taking other anticonvulsants  
  • Thrombocytopenia  
  • Hyperammonemia |
| • Skin rash | • Monitor for rash | • Prevents migraine headache  
  • Available orally or IV  
  • Give enteric-coated form and administer with food to prevent GI symptoms |
| • Neural tube defect (prevention needed if patient becomes pregnant) | • Give folic acid supplement to prevent neural tube defects if pregnancy occurs | • Increase blood levels of phenytoin and phenobarbital  
  • Use with topiramate increases risk for hyperammonemia |
| • Hyperammonemia | • Assess for vomiting, confusion, decreased level of consciousness  
  • Monitor blood ammonia levels | • Kidney disease  
  • Older adults  
  • Children under the age of 10 |
| • Pancreatitis | • Monitor serum amylase if symptoms occur | • Liver disorders  
  • Taking other anticonvulsants  
  • Thrombocytopenia  
  • Hyperammonemia |
| • Liver toxicity—may be fatal | • Monitor liver function tests before treatment and periodically during therapy  
  • Assure that patient takes lowest effective dose | • Increases blood levels of phenytoin and phenobarbital  
  • Use with topiramate increases risk for hyperammonemia |

Patient Instructions

- • Instruct patient to report bruising or bleeding to provider
- • Instruct patient to take with food
- • Instruct patient to report rash to provider
- • Advise patient to contact provider if becoming pregnant
- • Instruct patient/family to report decreased level of consciousness, vomiting, confusion to provider
- • Instruct patient to report nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain to provider
- • Instruct patient to report abdominal pain, jaundice, nausea, anorexia to provider