PATIENT PACKAGE INSERT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PHARMACISTS' REGULATIONS (PREPARATIONS) – 1986

The medicine is dispensed according to a physician's prescription only

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 5 mg

Each Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablet 5 mg contains 5 mg lamotrigine.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 25 mg

Each Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablet 25 mg contains 25 mg lamotrigine.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 50 mg

Each Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablet 50 mg contains 50 mg lamotrigine.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 100 mg

Each Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablet 100 mg contains 100 mg lamotrigine.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 200 mg

Each Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablet 200 mg contains 200 mg lamotrigine.

For the list of the inactive and allergenic ingredients in the medicine, see section 2 – "Important information about some of the ingredients in the medicine" and section 6 – "Additional information".

Read the leaflet carefully in its entirety before using the medicine. This leaflet contains concise information about the medicine. If you have further questions, refer to the physician or pharmacist.

This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them even if it seems to you that their medical condition is similar.

1. WHAT IS THE MEDICINE INTENDED FOR?

Lamictal is intended for the treatment of epilepsy (Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets: 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 mg)

In adults and adolescents aged 13 years and above:

- Lamictal is given as monotherapy or in combination with other medicines to treat partial seizures and generalized seizures, including tonic-clonic seizures.
- Seizures that occur with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome. Lamictal is given as combination therapy with other medicines but may be used as the initial antiepileptic drug to start treatment in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

In children and adolescents aged 2 to 12 years:

- Lamictal is given as combination therapy with other medicines to treat partial seizures and generalized seizures, including tonic-clonic seizures and seizures occurring with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.
- Lamictal is given as monotherapy in typical absence seizures.

Lamictal is intended for treatment of bipolar disorder (Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets: 25, 50, 100, 200 mg)

In adults aged 18 years and above:

- Lamictal is given to prevent depressive episodes in patients with bipolar I disorder who experience predominantly depressive episodes.

Lamictal is not intended for the acute treatment of manic or depressive episodes.

Therapeutic group:

Lamictal belongs to a group of medicines called *anticonvulsants*.

Lamictal blocks the signals in the brain that trigger epileptic seizures.

2. BEFORE USING THE MEDICINE

Do not use the medicine if:

- you are sensitive (allergic) to the active ingredient lamotrigine or to any of the additional ingredients contained in this medicine (listed in section 6).

If this applies to you:

→ **Tell your physician** and don't take Lamictal.

Special warnings regarding the use of the medicine

Before the treatment with Lamictal, tell the physician if:

- **you have any kidney problems**
- **you have ever developed a rash** after taking lamotrigine or other medicines for bipolar disorder or epilepsy
- **you experience a rash or sunburn after taking lamotrigine and having been exposed to sun or artificial light (e.g. solarium).** Your doctor will check your treatment and may advise you to avoid sunlight or protect yourself against the sun (e.g. use of a sunscreen and/or to wear protective clothing)
- **you have ever developed meningitis after taking lamotrigine** (*read the description of these symptoms in section 4 of this leaflet: rare side effects*)
- **you are already taking medicine that contains lamotrigine**
- **you have a condition called Brugada syndrome or other heart problems.** Brugada syndrome is a genetic disease that results in abnormal electrical activity within the heart. ECG abnormalities which may lead to arrhythmias (abnormal heart rhythm) can be triggered by Lamictal.

If any of these apply to you:

→ **Tell your physician,** who may decide to lower the dose or that Lamictal is not suitable for you.

Important information about potentially life-threatening reactions

A small number of people taking Lamictal develop 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). You need to know the symptoms to look out for while you are taking Lamictal.

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

Haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

There have been reports of a rare but very serious immune system reaction in patients taking Lamictal.

→ **Contact your physician or pharmacist immediately** if you experience any of the following symptoms while taking Lamictal: fever, rash, neurological symptoms (e.g. shaking or tremor, confusional state, disturbances of brain function).

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 suicidal thoughts or thoughts of harming themselves. If you have bipolar disorder, you may be more likely to think like this:

- when you first start treatment or with a change in dosage
- if you 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 Lamictal:

→ **Refer to a physician as soon as possible or go to the nearest hospital for help.**

You may find it helpful to tell a family member, caregiver or a close friend that you can become depressed or have significant mood swings and ask them to read this leaflet. You can ask them to tell you if they are concerned about your depression or about other changes in your behavior.

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

If you're taking Lamictal for epilepsy

The seizures in some types of epilepsy may occasionally become worse or happen more often while you're taking Lamictal. 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 Lamictal:

→ **Refer to a physician as soon as possible.**

Children and adolescents

Lamictal is not intended for children under 2 years of age.

Lamictal is not intended for 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.

Drug interactions

If you are taking, or have recently taken, other medicines, including non-prescription medicines and nutritional supplements, tell the physician or pharmacist.

Your physician needs to know if you are taking other medicines to treat epilepsy or mental health problems. This is to make sure you take the correct dose of Lamictal. These medicines include:

- **oxcarbazepine, felbamate, gabapentin, levetiracetam, pregabalin, topiramate** or **zonisamide,** used to treat **epilepsy**
- **lithium, olanzapine** or **aripiprazole,** used to treat **mental health problems**
- **bupropion,** used to treat **mental health problems** or **to stop smoking**
- **paracetamol**, used to treat **pain** and **fever**

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

Some medicines interact with Lamictal or make it more likely that people will 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 **contraceptive pill** (*see below*).

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

Hormonal contraceptives (such as contraceptive pill) can affect the way Lamictal works

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

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

Lamictal 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 physician.** These may be signs that Lamictal is affecting the way your contraceptive is working.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

→ **If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your physician or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.**

- **You should not stop treatment without discussing this with your physician.** This is particularly important if you have epilepsy.
- Pregnancy may alter the effectiveness of Lamictal, so you may need blood tests and your dose of Lamictal may be adjusted.
- There may be a small increased risk of birth defects, including a cleft lip or cleft palate, if Lamictal is taken during the first 3 months of pregnancy.
- Your physician may advise you to take extra folic acid if you're planning to become pregnant and while you're pregnant.

→ **If you are breast-feeding, or are planning to breast-feed, ask your physician or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.** The active ingredient of Lamictal passes into breast milk and may affect your baby. Your physician will discuss the risks and benefits of breast-feeding while you're taking Lamictal, and will check your baby from time to time, whether drowsiness, rash or poor weight gain occurs, if you decide to breast-feed. Inform your physician if you observe any of these symptoms in your baby.

Driving and using machines

Lamictal can cause dizziness and double vision.

→ **Don't drive or use machines unless you are sure you're not affected.**

Children should be warned against riding bicycles or playing near roads, etc.

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

Important information about some of the ingredients in the medicine

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets contain less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, i.e., they are essentially sodium-free.

3. HOW SHOULD YOU USE THE MEDICINE?

Always use the preparation according to the physician's instructions. Check with the physician or pharmacist if you are uncertain about the preparation dosage and treatment regimen.

The dosage and treatment regimen will be determined by the physician only according to the severity of the disease.

How much Lamictal to take

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

- your age
- whether you are taking Lamictal with other medicines
- whether you have any kidney or liver problems.

Your physician will prescribe for you a low dose to start 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 Lamictal than your physician tells you to.**

Do not exceed the recommended dose

How to take your dose of Lamictal

Take your dose of Lamictal once or twice a day, as your physician instructed you. It can be taken with or without food.

- **Always take the full dose** that your physician has prescribed for you. Never take only part of a tablet.

Your physician 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.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets can be swallowed whole with a little water or chewed or mixed with water to make a liquid medicine. Never take only part of the liquid.

To chew the tablet:

You may need to drink a little water while chewing the tablet to help the tablet dissolve in the mouth. Then drink some more water to make sure all the medicine has been swallowed.

To make a liquid medicine:

- Put the tablet in a glass with at least enough water to cover the entire tablet.
- Either stir to dissolve or wait until the tablet is fully dissolved.
- Drink all the liquid.
- Add a little more water to the glass and drink it to make sure no medicine is left in the glass.

Do not crush or halve the tablet as no information exists in regards to crushing and halving.

If you accidentally have taken a higher dosage

If you have taken an overdose or if a child has accidentally swallowed the medicine, **refer immediately to a physician or to the hospital emergency room** and bring the package of the medicine with you.

If you take too much **Lamictal, you are more likely to develop serious side effects, which may be fatal.**

Someone who has taken too much Lamictal may have any of these symptoms:

- rapid, uncontrollable eye movements (*nystagmus*)
- clumsiness and lack of coordination, affecting balance (*ataxia*)
- heart rhythm changes (detected usually on ECG)
- loss of consciousness, fits (seizures) or coma.

If you forgot to take a single dose of Lamictal

→ **Don't take extra tablets to make up for a forgotten dose. Take your next dose at the usual time.**

If you forgot to take several doses of Lamictal

→ **Ask your physician for advice on how to start taking it again.** It is important that you do this.

Adhere to the treatment regimen recommended by your physician.

Even if your health condition improves, do not stop treatment with the medicine without consulting the physician.

Don't stop taking Lamictal without advice

You must take Lamictal for as long as your physician recommends. Don't stop unless your physician advises you to.

If you're taking Lamictal to treat epilepsy

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

If you're taking Lamictal to treat bipolar disorder

Lamictal may take some time to work, so you are unlikely to feel better straight away. If you stop taking Lamictal, your dose will not need to be reduced gradually but you should still talk to your physician first, if you want to stop taking Lamictal.

Do not take medicines in the dark! Check the label and the dose each time you take a medicine. Wear glasses if you need them.

If you have further questions regarding use of the medicine, consult the physician or pharmacist.

For Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets in bottle package:

Bottle opening instructions – to remove the cap, press down and twist to the left (turning counter-clockwise) at the same time.

Bottle closure instructions – close the bottle tightly with the cap, twisting to the right (turning clockwise) until it locks.

4. SIDE EFFECTS

As with any medicine, use of Lamictal may cause side effects in some users. Do not be alarmed by reading the list of side effects. You may not suffer from any of them.

Potentially life-threatening reactions: get medical help straight away

A small number of people taking Lamictal develop 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 Lamictal, especially if the starting dose is too high or if the dose is increased too quickly or if Lamictal 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 organ involvement (Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms which is also known as hypersensitivity syndrome –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 bruising or bleeding,** or the fingers turning blue
- **a sore throat** or more infections (such as colds) than usual
- increased levels of liver enzymes seen in blood tests
- 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 life-threatening and can develop into more serious problems,** such as organ failure, if they are not treated. If you notice any of these symptoms:

→ **Refer to a physician immediately.** Your physician may decide to carry out tests on your liver, kidneys or blood and may tell you to stop taking Lamictal. In case you have developed Stevens-Johnson syndrome or toxic epidermal necrolysis, your physician will tell you that you must never take Lamictal again.

Haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) (see in section 2: Special warnings regarding the use of the medicine).

Very common side effects

These may affect **more than 1 in 10** people:

- headache
- skin rash.

Common side effects

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

- aggression or irritability
- feeling sleepy or drowsy
- feeling dizzy
- shaking or tremors
- insomnia
- feeling agitated
- diarrhoea
- dry mouth
- nausea or vomiting
- feeling tired
- pain in the back or joints, or elsewhere.

Uncommon side effects

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

- clumsiness and lack of coordination (*ataxia*)
- double vision or blurred vision
- unusual hair loss or thinning (*alopecia*)
- skin rash or sunburn after exposure to sun or artificial light (photosensitivity).

Rare side effects

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

- a life-threatening skin reaction (*Stevens-Johnson syndrome*) (*see also the information at the beginning of section 4*)
- a group of symptoms 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*). These symptoms usually disappear once treatment is stopped; however, if the symptoms continue or get worse, **contact your physician**
- rapid, uncontrollable eye movements (*nystagmus*)
- itchy eyes, with discharge and crusty eyelids (*conjunctivitis*).

Very rare side effects

These may affect **up to 1 in 10,000** people:
- a life-threatening skin reaction (*toxic epidermal necrolysis*) (*see also the information at the beginning of section 4*)
- Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) (*see also the information at the beginning of section 4*)
- a high temperature (fever) (*see also the information at the beginning of section 4*)
- swelling around the face (*oedema*) or swollen glands in the neck, armpit or groin (*enlarged lymph nodes*) (*see also the information at the beginning of section 4*)
- changes in liver function, which will show up in blood tests or liver failure and yellowing of the skin (*see also the information at the beginning of section 4*)
- a serious disorder of blood clotting, which can cause unexpected bleeding or bruising (*disseminated intravascular coagulation*) (*see also the information at the beginning of section 4*)
- Haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) (see in section 2: Special warnings regarding the use of the medicine).
- changes which may show up in blood tests – including reduced numbers of red blood cells (*anaemia*), reduced numbers 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*
- hallucinations ('seeing' or 'hearing' things that aren't really there)
- confusion
- feeling 'wobbly' or unsteady when you move about

- uncontrollable body movements (*tics*), uncontrollable muscle spasms affecting the eyes, head and upper body (*choreoathetosis*) or other unusual body movements such as jerking, shaking or stiffness
- in people who have epilepsy, seizures happening more often
- in people who 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).

Other side effects

Other side effects have occurred in a small number of users but their exact frequency is unknown:

- There have been reports of bone disorders including osteopenia and osteoporosis (thinning of the bone) and fractures. Check with your physician or pharmacist if you are on long-term anti-epileptic medication, have a history of osteoporosis or take steroids
- Inflammation of the kidney (*tubulointerstitial nephritis*), or inflammation of both the kidney and the eye (*tubulointerstitial nephritis* and *uveitis syndrome*)
- nightmares
- Decreased effectiveness of the immune system due to low levels of antibodies called immunoglobulins in the blood, which help protect against infection.

If a side effect occurs, if one of the side effects worsens, or if you suffer from a side effect not mentioned in this leaflet, consult with the physician.

Reporting side effects

Side effects can be reported to the Ministry of Health by clicking on the link "Report Side Effects of Drug Treatment" found on the Ministry of Health homepage (www.health.gov.il) that directs you to the online form for reporting side effects, or by entering the link:
https://sideeffects.health.gov.il/

5. HOW TO STORE THE MEDICINE?

- Avoid poisoning! This medicine and any other medicine should be kept in a closed place out of the reach and sight of children and/or infants in order to avoid poisoning. Do not induce vomiting unless explicitly instructed to do so by the physician.
- Do not use the medicine after the expiry date (exp. date) that appears on the package. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 5 mg: Store below 30°C. Keep dry. Protect from light.

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 25 mg: Store below 30°C. Keep dry. Protect from light.

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 50 mg: This medicine does not require any special storage conditions. Storage at room temperature is recommended.

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 100 mg: Store below 30°C. Keep dry. Protect from light.

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 200 mg: This medicine does not require any special storage conditions. Storage at room temperature is recommended.
- Do not discard medicines in the wastewater or household waste bin. Ask the pharmacist how to dispose of medicines that are no longer in uses. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- In addition to the active ingredient, the medicine also contains:

  Calcium carbonate, low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, aluminium magnesium silicate, sodium starch glycolate (Type A), povidone K30, saccharin sodium, blackcurrant flavour, magnesium stearate.

  Also see section 2 in this leaflet - "Important information about some of the ingredients in the medicine".
- What the medicine looks like and the content of the package:

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets (all strengths) are white to off-white and may be slightly mottled. They smell of blackcurrant.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 5 mg are elongated with curved sides. They are marked 'GS CL2' on one side and '5' on the other. Each pack contains blisters of 30 tablets or a plastic bottle containing 30 tablets with a child-resistant cap.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 25 mg are square with rounded corners. They are marked 'GSCL5' on one side and '25' on the other. Each pack contains blisters of 21, 30 or 42 tablets.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 50 mg are square with rounded corners. They are marked 'GSCX7' on one side and '50' on the other. Each pack contains blisters of 21, 28, 30 or 42 tablets.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 100 mg are square with rounded corners. They are marked 'GSCL7' on one side and '100' on the other. Each pack contains blisters of 30 tablets.

Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 200 mg are square with rounded corners. They are marked 'GSEC5' on one side and '200' on the other. Each pack contains blisters of 28 or 30 tablets.

Not all package sizes may be marketed.

- License Holder: GlaxoSmithKline (Israel) Ltd., 25 Basel St., Petach Tikva.
- Manufacturer: GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals S.A., Poznan, Poland.
- Registration number of the medicine in the National Drug Registry of the Ministry of Health:

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 5 mg: 068-90-28230

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 25 mg: 068-91-28231

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 50 mg: 113-01-29558

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 100 mg: 068-92-28232

  Lamictal Dispersible/Chewable Tablets 200 mg: 113-02-29559

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