

**PATIENT LEAFLET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
PHARMACISTS' REGULATIONS (PREPARATIONS) - 1986**

The medicine is dispensed with a doctor's prescription only

**Epanutin™ 100 mg  
Capsules**

**Each capsule contains: 100 mg phenytoin sodium**

Inactive ingredients and allergens: See section 2 under 'Important information about some of this medicine's ingredients' and section 6 "Further information".

**Read the entire leaflet carefully before using the medicine.** This leaflet contains concise information about this medicine. If you have any further questions, consult your doctor 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 to yours.

## **1. WHAT IS THIS MEDICINE INTENDED FOR?**

For the treatment of epilepsy.

**Therapeutic group:** anticonvulsant.

## **2. BEFORE USING THIS MEDICINE**

**Do not use this medicine if:**

- you are sensitive (allergic) to the active ingredient or to any of the other ingredients contained in the medicine (see section 6) or to medicines of the hydantoin group, including hypersensitivity reaction such as angioedema.
- you have suffered in the past from liver problems due to taking phenytoin.
- you are taking delavirdine.

### **Special warnings regarding use of the medicine**

**Before treatment with Epanutin, tell your doctor if:**

- You are suffering or have suffered from depression, mood swings, suicidal thoughts or behavior.
- You have experienced in the past an allergic reaction to medicines similar to Epanutin, such as carboxamides, barbiturates, succinimides and oxazolidinediones.
- You are suffering or have suffered from liver or kidney problems.

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- You are suffering or have suffered from porphyria.
- You are suffering or have suffered from high blood sugar levels (hyperglycemia).
- You consume alcohol.
- You are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. Epanutin may cause harm to the fetus.
  - If you are taking Epanutin during pregnancy, your baby is at risk of severe congenital defects.
  - If you become pregnant during treatment with Epanutin, the level of the medicine in your blood may decrease, causing the seizures to become worse. Your doctor may change the dosage of Epanutin.
  - If you are taking Epanutin during pregnancy, your baby is also at risk of bleeding problems immediately after birth. Your doctor may prescribe you and your baby a medicine to prevent this.
  - All women of childbearing age should consult their attending doctor regarding other treatment options instead of Epanutin.
  - If you are of childbearing age and are not planning to become pregnant, you should use effective contraceptives while using Epanutin.
- You are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed. This medicine may pass into the breast milk. You and your doctor should decide whether you should take Epanutin while breastfeeding.

**Do not stop taking Epanutin abruptly and without consulting the doctor.**

- Abrupt discontinuation of Epanutin may cause serious problems.
- Abrupt discontinuation of an anticonvulsant may result in increased incidence of seizures or a seizure attack that does not stop (status epilepticus).

**Similarly, to other anticonvulsants, Epanutin may cause suicidal thoughts or behavior in a very small number of people (about 1 in 500).** See section 4, Side effects.

Suicidal thoughts or behavior may be caused by factors other than medicines. The doctor may examine other factors.

**To foresee early symptoms of suicidal thoughts or behavior:**

- Pay attention to any change, especially sudden changes in the mood, behaviors, thoughts or feelings.
- Ensure regular appointments with the attending doctor.

Please contact your doctor if needed, especially if you are worried due to appearance of any symptoms.

**Epanutin may cause a severe allergic reaction that may affect different parts of the body such as the liver, kidneys, blood, heart, skin or other parts of the body. This reaction may be very severe and even cause death.**

See section 4, Side effects.

Hypersensitivity reaction also includes a skin reaction and rarely severe skin reactions. Stop taking the medicine immediately in case a rash appears and contact the doctor.

Hypersensitivity reaction also includes symptoms of angioedema, such as swelling of the face, oral area or upper respiratory tract – in case of any of these symptoms, immediately stop taking the medicine and contact a doctor.

**Epanutin may cause heart problems, including a slow heartbeat.** See section 4, Side effects.

Inform the doctor of any conditions in which the medicine cannot be taken orally as scheduled (such as surgery).

### Tests and follow-up

- Upon prolonged use of the medicine, mineral bone density and vitamin D level tests should be periodically performed.
- This medicine can affect the blood level results of thyroid hormones, dexamethasone, metyrapone, alkaline phosphatase, glucose and GGT.
- Upon combination of the medicine with valproic acid or sodium valproate, there may be an increased risk of valproate-associated excess ammonia in the blood (hyperammonemia). Patients treated with these two medicines should be monitored for signs and symptoms of hyperammonemia.

### Drug interactions

Using Epanutin with certain other medicines may cause side effects or affect their efficacy. Do not take or stop taking any other medicine without consulting the doctor.

**If you are taking, or have recently taken, other medicines, including nonprescription medicines and dietary supplements, tell your doctor or pharmacist.** Particularly if you are taking:

#### Medicines that may increase blood phenytoin level:

Anticonvulsants such as ethosuximide, felbamate, oxcarbazepine, methsuximide, topiramate; azoles such as fluconazole, ketoconazole, miconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole; medicines to treat cancerous tumors such as capecitabine, fluorouracil; antidepressants such as fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, sertraline; medicines reducing gastric acid such as H<sub>2</sub> blockers (cimetidine), omeprazole; sulfonamides such as sulfamethizole, sulfaphenazole, sulfadiazine, sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim; other medicines such as amiodarone, chloramphenicol, chlordiazepoxide, disulfiram, estrogen, fluvastatin, isoniazid, methylphenidate, phenothiazines, salicylates, ticlopidine, tolbutamide, trazodone, warfarin; in addition, acute alcohol intake.

#### Medicines that may decrease blood phenytoin level:

Antacids such as calcium carbonate, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide (these preparations may affect absorption of the medicine, avoid taking antacids and Epanutin at the same time of the day); medicines to treat cancerous tumors (usually in combination) such as bleomycin, carboplatin, cisplatin, doxorubicin, methotrexate; antiviral medicines such as fosamprenavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir; anticonvulsants such as vigabatrin, carbamazepine; other medicines such as

diazepam, diazoxide, folic acid, reserpine, rifampin, *hypericum* (St. John's wort), sucralfate, theophylline; in addition, chronic alcohol intake.

Medicines that may increase/decrease blood phenytoin level:

Anticonvulsants such as phenobarbital, valproic acid, valproate sodium.

Medicines whose effect may change as a result of combination with phenytoin:

Azoles such as fluconazole, ketoconazole, itraconazole, posaconazole, voriconazole; medicines to treat cancerous tumors such as irinotecan, paclitaxel, teniposide; delavirdine (see section 2: "Do not use this medicine if"), muscle relaxants such as cisatracurium, pancuronium, rocuronium, vecuronium; warfarin; other medicines such as corticosteroids, doxycycline, estrogens, furosemide, oral contraceptives, paroxetine, quinidine, rifampin, sertraline, theophylline, vitamin D.

Medicines whose blood levels may decrease as a result of combination with phenytoin:

Anticoagulants such as apixaban, dabigatran, edoxaban, rivaroxaban; anticonvulsants such as carbamazepine, felbamate, lamotrigine, topiramate, oxcarbazepine, lacosamide; medicines to lower the level of lipids in the blood such as atorvastatin, fluvastatin, simvastatin; antiplatelet agents such as ticagrelor; antiviral medicines such as efavirenz, lopinavir/ritonavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir, saquinavir, fosamprenavir; medicines to treat hypertension and the heart such as nifedipine, nimodipine, nisoldipine, verapamil; other medicines such as albendazole, chlorpropamide, clozapine, cyclosporine, digoxin, disopyramide, folic acid, methadone, mexiletine, praziquantel, quetiapine.

**Using this medicine and alcohol consumption**

Do not consume alcohol during the course of treatment with the medicine without prior consultation with your doctor. Alcohol consumption while taking Epanutin may change the blood level of the medicine, which may cause serious problems.

**Pregnancy, breastfeeding, and fertility**

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, do not use this medicine without consulting the doctor before starting treatment. Epanutin may cause harm to the fetus.

- If you are taking Epanutin during pregnancy, your baby is at risk of severe congenital defects.
- If you become pregnant during treatment with Epanutin, the level of the medicine in your blood may decrease, causing the seizures to become worse. Your doctor may change the dosage of Epanutin.
- If you are taking Epanutin during pregnancy, your baby is also at risk of bleeding problems immediately after birth. Your doctor may prescribe you and your baby a medicine to prevent this.
- All women of childbearing age should consult their attending doctor regarding other treatment options instead of Epanutin.

- If you are of childbearing age and not planning to become pregnant, you should use effective contraceptives while using Epanutin.

If you are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed, do not use this medicine without consulting the doctor before starting treatment. This medicine may pass into the breast milk. You and your doctor should decide whether you should take Epanutin while you are breastfeeding.

### **Driving and using machines**

Do not drive, operate heavy machines or perform dangerous activities until you know how Epanutin affects you. Epanutin may slow your thinking and motor (movement) capabilities. See section 4, Side effects.

### **Important information about some of this medicine's ingredients**

The preparation contains lactose monohydrate and may cause allergy in people sensitive to lactose.

## **3. HOW TO USE THIS MEDICINE?**

Always use this medicine according to your doctor's instructions. Check with the doctor or pharmacist if you are uncertain about the dosage and treatment regimen of the medicine.

The dosage and treatment regimen will be determined by your doctor only.

Your doctor may change the dosage if required. Do not change the dosage without consulting your doctor.

### **Do not exceed the recommended dose.**

In children, if the daily dosage cannot be divided into equal doses, the larger dose should be taken at bedtime.

Swallow the capsule with water.

There is no information regarding opening and dispersing the capsule.

Avoid taking antacids (such as calcium carbonate, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide) and Epanutin at the same time of the day. These preparations may affect the absorption of the medicine.

### **If you have accidentally taken a higher dosage**

If you have taken an overdose, or if a child has accidentally swallowed some medicine, immediately see a doctor or go to a hospital emergency room and bring the medicine package with you.

The initial symptoms of overdose include: irregular movement of the eye (nystagmus), lack of coordination and speech disorder. Other signs include tremor, hyperreflexia, lethargy, slurred speech, blurred vision, nausea and vomiting. Loss of consciousness

and decrease in blood pressure may occur. Slow heart rate and cardiac arrest have been reported as well.

**If you forget to take the medicine at the scheduled time**, take a dose as soon as you remember, but never take a double dose!

Adhere to the treatment as recommended by your doctor.

**If you stop taking this medicine**

Even if your health improves, do not stop taking this medicine without consulting your doctor. Discontinuing the medicine may cause an increase in the frequency of seizures or a seizure attack that does not stop (status epilepticus).

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

**If you have any further questions about using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist.**

**4. SIDE EFFECTS**

As with any medicine, use of Epanutin may cause side effects in some users. Do not be alarmed by this list of side effects; you may not experience any of them.

**Stop the treatment and contact your doctor immediately in case of:**

- Hypersensitivity reaction to the medicine, including skin rash, fever and enlargement of lymph nodes and/or facial swelling.
- Hypersensitivity reaction to the medicine, including symptoms of angioedema such as swelling of the face, oral area or upper respiratory tract.
- Anaphylactic shock.

**Contact the doctor immediately in case** of occurrence of one or more of the following side effects, especially if they are new, preexisting that worsened, or worry you: depression, anxiety, nervousness – new effects or preexisting effects that worsened. Suicidal thoughts and behavior, panic attack, restlessness and agitation, aggressiveness (anger and violence), dangerous impulsive behavior, excessive talking and activity (mania), other abnormal mood and behavioral changes, insomnia.

Epanutin may cause a severe allergic reaction that may affect different parts of the body such as the liver, kidneys, blood, heart, skin or other parts of the body. This reaction may be very severe and may even cause death.

**Contact the doctor immediately if one or more of the following side effects occur:**

Fever, rash, enlargement of lymph nodes, swelling of the face, eyes, lips or tongue, difficulty swallowing or breathing, sore throat, painful mouth sores, high predisposition to bruising, purple or red spots on the skin, frequent infections, loss of appetite (anorexia), nausea, vomiting, yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice).

Contact the doctor even if the effects are mild or if you are taking Epanutin for a prolonged period. These effects may be a sign of a severe allergic reaction.

Epanutin may cause heart problems, including a slow heartbeat.

**Contact the doctor immediately if any of the following side effects occurs:**

Dizziness, tiredness, feeling like the heart is beating slowly or skipping beats, chest pain.

**Additional side effects include:**

Constipation, dizziness, mild drowsiness, confusion, mild nervousness, headache, irregular movement of the eye (nystagmus), disturbances of speech, gait or coordination, involuntary movements, taste disturbances including metallic taste, tingling sensation, nausea, vomiting, fever, tremor, muscle weakness or pain, joint pain, increased risk of fractures (osteoporosis, osteopenia, osteomalacia), bone fractures, low vitamin D levels, hypocalcemia, hypophosphatemia, changes in blood count (e.g. thrombocytopenia and leucopenia), anemia, high sugar levels (hyperglycemia), jaundice, hepatic damage, systemic lupus erythematosus, gingival hyperplasia, swelling of the lips, Peyronie's disease, rash, urticaria, excessive hairiness, other skin reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis and a rare skin reaction characterized by small skin bumps with pustular fluid.

High blood levels of Epanutin that may cause confusion (hallucinations), psychosis or a more serious condition affecting brain function (encephalopathy).

**Symptoms in case of treatment discontinuation**

If you discontinue the medicine abruptly, you may develop seizures or a seizure attack that does not stop (status epilepticus).

The preparation may cause gingival hyperplasia. Brushing, using dental floss and visiting the dentist regularly can prevent this condition.

**If you experience any side effect, if any side effect gets worse, or if you experience a side effect not mentioned in this leaflet, consult your doctor.**

You can report side effects to the Ministry of Health by following the link 'Reporting Side Effects of Drug Treatment' on the Ministry of Health home page ([www.health.gov.il](http://www.health.gov.il)) which links to an online form for reporting side effects or by using the link:

<https://sideeffects.health.gov.il>

**5. HOW TO STORE THE MEDICINE?**

- Prevent poisoning! This and any other medicine should be kept in a closed place out of the reach and sight of children and/or infants to avoid poisoning. Do not induce vomiting unless explicitly instructed to do so by a doctor.

- Do not use the medicine after the expiry date (exp. date) which is stated on the package. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Store below 25°C.

## 6. FURTHER INFORMATION

### **In addition to the active ingredient, this medicine also contains:**

Lactose monohydrate and magnesium stearate, gelatin, titanium dioxide (E171), erythrosine (E127), quinoline yellow (E104) and black ink (shellac, black Iron oxide E172, dehydrated alcohol, propylene glycol, N-butyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, industrial methylated spirit, ammonium solution, potassium hydroxide).

Each capsule contains 96.15 mg lactose monohydrate.

### **What the medicine looks like and contents of the pack:**

Epanutin are orange-transparent capsules with an opaque white body, with the text "Epanutin 100" written on both parts of the capsule, containing white powder. The medicine is marketed in packs of a bottle containing 84 or 100 capsules.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Registration holder and address:** Pfizer PFE Pharmaceuticals Israel Ltd., 9 Shenkar St., Herzliya Pituach 46725.

Registration number of the medicine in the Ministry of Health's National Drug Registry: 104-27-24678.

Revised in 04/2022 according to MOH guidelines.