



## 8.2 Lactation

**Risk Summary:** Lamotrigine is present in milk from lactating women taking lamotrigine (see Data). Neonates and young infants are at risk for high serum lamotrigine concentrations and milk levels can rise to higher postpartum if lamotrigine dosage has been increased during pregnancy but is not reduced after delivery to the pregnancy stage. Glaucoma, decreased visual acuity, and decreased visual evoked potentials were observed in the infant and this may also continue due to the level of lamotrigine received. Events after delivery include decreased consciousness, decreased alertness, and poor weight gain (requiring hospitalization in some cases). These events were caused by lamotrigine in milk. No data are available on the effects of the drug on milk production.

The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for SUBVENITE and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed infant from SUBVENITE or from the underlying maternal condition.

## Clinical Considerations

Human milk-infants should be closely monitored for adverse events resulting from lamotrigine. Measurement of infant serum levels should be performed by milk cut toxicity if concerns arise. Human milk-feeding should be discontinued in infants with lamotrigine toxicity.

## Data

Data from multiple small studies indicate that lamotrigine plasma levels in nursing infants have been reported to be as high as 50% of maternal plasma concentrations.

## 8.4 Pediatric Use

**Epilepsy:** SUBVENITE is indicated as adjunctive therapy in patients aged 2 years and older for partial-onset seizures, the generalized syndrome of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, and PGTc seizures.

Safety and efficacy of lamotrigine used as adjunctive therapy for partial-onset seizures were not demonstrated in a small, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled withdrawal trial in very young pediatric patients (aged 1 to 24 months). Lamotrigine was associated with an increased risk for infection adverse reactions (lamotrigine 2%, placebo 2%), and respiratory adverse reactions (lamotrigine 26%, placebo 18%). Infection adverse reactions included bronchitis, tonsillitis, ear infection, eye infection, otitis externa, pharyngitis, urinary tract infection, and viral infection. Respiratory adverse reactions included nasopharyngitis, cough, and croup.

## Bipolar Disorder

Safety and efficacy of lamotrigine for the maintenance treatment of bipolar disorder were not established in a double-blind, randomized withdrawal, placebo-controlled trial that evaluated 300 pediatric patients with bipolar disorder (ages 12 to 17 years). The highest percentage of patients who were assessed at baseline by DSM-IV-TR in the randomized phase of the trial, adverse reactions that occurred at  $\geq 10\%$  in placebo (N = 86) were influenza (lamotrigine 8%, placebo 2%), conjunctivitis (lamotrigine 5%, placebo 5%), upper abdominal pain (lamotrigine 5%, placebo 1%), and suicidal ideation (lamotrigine 5%, placebo 0%).

## Juvenile Anxiety Data

In a juvenile anxiety study in which lamotrigine (0.5 mg, 1.5, 3.0, 5.0, 10, 30 mg/kg) was administered twice daily from posttest day 1 to 62, decreased visibility and drowsiness were seen at the highest dose tested and long-term neurobehavioral abnormalities (decreased locomotor activity, increased reactivity to learning deficits in animals tested at the 2 highest doses) were observed. The neurotoxic effects due to adverse developmental effects in juvenile animals is less than the human dose of 400 mg/day on a mg/kg basis.

## 8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical trials of lamotrigine for epilepsy and bipolar disorder did not include sufficient numbers of patients aged 65 years and older to determine whether they respond differently from younger patients of similar age. However, based on clinical experience and pharmacokinetic data, lamotrigine is expected to be used in geriatric patients with caution, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

## 8.6 Hepatic Impairment

Experience in patients with hepatic impairment is limited. Based on a clinical pharmacology study in 24 patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment, the following general recommendations can be made (See Clinical Pharmacology (12.2)). No dosage adjustment is needed in patients with mild liver impairment. Escalated blood levels should generally be reduced by approximately 25% in patients with moderate and severe liver impairment without ascites and 50% in patients with severe liver impairment with ascites. Escalation and maintenance doses may be adjusted according to clinical response (See Dosage and Administration (2.1)).

## 8.7 Renal Impairment

Lamotrigine is metabolized mainly by glucuronic acid conjugation, with the majority of the metabolites being excreted in the urine. In patients with renal impairment, the following general recommendations can be made (See Clinical Pharmacology (12.2)). No dosage adjustment is needed in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment. Escalated blood levels should generally be reduced by approximately 25% in patients with moderate and severe liver impairment without ascites and 50% in patients with severe liver impairment with ascites. Escalation and maintenance doses may be adjusted according to clinical response (See Dosage and Administration (2.1)).

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## 10 OVERDOSAGE

**10.1 Human Overdose Experience:** In patients with epilepsy, overdoses of lamotrigine, some of which have been fatal, have been reported. Overdose has resulted in ataxia, nystagmus, seizures (including tonic-clonic seizures), decreased level of consciousness, coma, and a cardiovascular conduction delay.

## 10.2 Management of Overdose

There are no specific antidotes for lamotrigine. Following a suspected overdose, hospitalization of the patient is advised. General supportive care is indicated, including frequent monitoring of vital signs and close observation of the patient. If indicated, emesis should be induced; usual procedures should be taken to protect the airway. It should be noted that immediate-release lamotrigine is rapidly and extensively absorbed (See Clinical Pharmacology (12.2)). It is uncertain whether hemodialysis is an effective means to reduce lamotrigine levels. In patients with moderate to severe overdose, hemodialysis in the body may be responsible for hemodialysis during a 4-hour session. A Poison Control Center should be contacted for information on the management of overdose of SUBVENITE.

## 11 DESCRIPTION

SUBVENITE (lamotrigine) oral suspension, an AED of the phenylsuccinamide class, is chemically unrelated to existing AEDs. Lamotrigine's chemical name is 5-(3-dimethyl-2-(2-dichlorophenyl)ethyl)amino-2,1,3-benzoxazine, its molecular formula is  $C_{14}H_{16}Cl_2N_2O_2$ , and its structural formula is shown below. It has a molecular weight of 286.17 and contains 0.5% of hydroxyethylcellulose, 0.5% of methylcellulose, 0.5% of polyethylene glycol, 0.5% of xanthan gum, 0.5% of sodium hydroxide, 0.5% of sodium phosphate dibasic, 0.5% of sodium phosphate monobasic, 0.5% of sodium saccharin, 0.5% of sodium citrate, 0.5% of sodium chloride, 0.5% of sodium phosphate dibasic, 0.5% of sodium phosphate monobasic, 0.5% of sodium saccharin, and 0.5% of xanthan gum.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

The precise mechanism(s) by which lamotrigine exerts its anticonvulsant action are unknown. In animal models designed to detect anticonvulsant activity, lamotrigine was effective in preventing seizure spread in the maximum electroconvulsive (MES) and pentylentetrazol (PMET) tests, and prevented seizures in the visually and electrically evoked after-discharge (EAD) tests for antiepileptic activity. Lamotrigine also displayed inhibitory properties in the kindling model in rats during kindling development and in the fully kindled state. The relevance of these models to human epilepsy, however, is not known. One proposed mechanism of action of lamotrigine, the relevance of which remains to be established in humans, involves an effect on sodium channels. In vitro pharmacological studies suggest that lamotrigine may act on voltage-gated sodium channels, thereby stabilizing neuronal membranes and consequently modulating presynaptic transmitter release of excitatory amino acids (e.g., glutamate and aspartate).

### Effect of Lamotrigine on N-Methyl-D-Aspartate Receptor-Mediated Activity

The effect of lamotrigine on N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA)-induced depolarizations in rat cortical slices or NMDA-induced cyclic GMP formation in immature rat cerebellum, nor did lamotrigine display compounds that are either competitive or noncompetitive ligands at the glutamate receptor complex (NMDX, CGX, TCSP). The  $IC_{50}$  for lamotrigine effects on NMDA-induced currents (in the presence of 3  $\mu$ M of dicyclohexyl carbodiimide) was approximately 10  $\mu$ M.

### 12.2 Pharmacokinetics

#### Enzyme Inhibition

In vitro, lamotrigine inhibited dihydrofolate reductase, the enzyme that catalyzes the reduction of dihydrofolate to tetrahydrofolate. Inhibition of this enzyme may interfere with the biosynthesis of the nucleic acids and proteins. When oral doses of lamotrigine were given to pregnant rats during organogenesis, fetal placental and maternal plasma concentrations were reduced. Significantly reduced concentrations of fetal and maternal plasma concentrations of lamotrigine were observed. The placental concentrations were also reduced in rats given repeated oral doses of lamotrigine. Reduced concentrations were partially returned to normal when lamotrigine was given with folic acid.

#### Cardiac Electrophysiology

Effect of Lamotrigine: In vivo studies show that lamotrigine exhibits Class II antiarrhythmic activity at therapeutically relevant concentrations. It binds human cardiac sodium channels with negligible affinity at clinically and strong voltage dependence, consistent with other Class II antiarrhythmic agents. As other Class II antiarrhythmic agents, lamotrigine did not slow ventricular conduction (as shown in a Class II healthy individuals in a thorough QT study), however, in patients with clinically important structural or functional heart disease or with elevated heart rate, SUBVENITE could cause bradycardia (See Warnings and Precautions (5.3)).

#### Effect of Lamotrigine Metabolite: In Dogs

Effect of Lamotrigine Metabolite: In dogs, lamotrigine is extensively metabolized to a 2-N-methyl metabolite. This metabolite causes dose-dependent prolongation of the PR interval, widening of the QRS complex, and, at higher doses, complete AV conduction block. The in vitro electrophysiological effects of this metabolite have not been studied. Similar cardiovascular effects from this metabolite are not anticipated in humans because only trace amounts of the 2-N-methyl metabolite (<0.1% of lamotrigine dose) have been found in human urine (See Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)). However, it is conceivable that plasma concentrations of this metabolite could be increased in patients with a reduced capacity to glucuronide lamotrigine (e.g., in patients with liver disease, patients taking concomitant medications that inhibit glucuronidation).

#### Accumulation in Kidneys

Lamotrigine accumulated in the kidney of the male rat, causing chronic progressive nephrosis, necrosis, and mineralization. These findings are attributed to 2-methylglucuronide, a specific and sex-specific metabolite that has not been detected in humans or other animal species.

#### Major Binding

Lamotrigine binds to melanin-containing tissues, e.g., in the eye and pigmented skin. It has been found in the vessel lard up to 52 weeks after a single dose in rodents.

## 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

The pharmacokinetics of lamotrigine have been studied in subjects with epilepsy, healthy young and elderly volunteers, and volunteers with chronic renal failure. A pharmacokinetic study in healthy adult subjects under fasting conditions at a single 100-mg oral dose level demonstrated similar pharmacokinetics for lamotrigine in rapid and slow metabolizers.

## Absorption

Lamotrigine is rapidly and completely absorbed after oral administration with negligible first-pass metabolism (absolute bioavailability is 88%). The bioavailability is not affected by food, but the time to reach maximum plasma concentrations is delayed by 30 to 45 minutes in the presence of food and by 10 minutes in the absence of food.

## Dose Proportionality

Pharmacokinetics were not receiving any other medications and given single doses, the plasma concentrations of lamotrigine increased in direct proportion to the dose administered over the range of 100 mg to 400 mg. In 24 healthy subjects (11 men and 13 women), the plasma concentrations of lamotrigine were similar in the presence of other AEDs. There was also a linear relationship between dose and lamotrigine plasma concentrations at steady state following doses of 50 mg to 350 mg twice daily.

## Distribution

Estimates of the mean apparent volume of distribution (V<sub>D</sub>) of lamotrigine following oral administration range from 0.8 to 1.3 L/kg. V<sub>D</sub> is independent of dose and is similar following single and multiple doses in healthy male volunteers with epilepsy and in healthy volunteers.

## Protein Binding

Data from in vitro studies indicate that lamotrigine is approximately 55% bound to human plasma proteins. In vivo studies in patients with epilepsy and in healthy volunteers showed that lamotrigine plasma concentration observed in the controlled efficacy trials. Because lamotrigine is not highly bound to plasma proteins, protein binding is unlikely to be a clinically important factor in the interpretation of plasma binding data. The binding of lamotrigine to plasma proteins did not change in the presence of AEDs (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, or valproate). Lamotrigine did not displace other AEDs (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital) from protein-binding sites.

## Metabolism

Lamotrigine is metabolized predominantly by glucuronic acid conjugation; the major metabolite is 2-N-methylglucuronide. In patients with moderate to severe liver impairment, the plasma concentration of lamotrigine was reduced by approximately 25% to 50%. In 18 healthy subjects, the plasma concentration observed in the controlled efficacy trials. Because lamotrigine is not highly bound to plasma proteins, protein binding is unlikely to be a clinically important factor in the interpretation of plasma binding data. The binding of lamotrigine to plasma proteins did not change in the presence of AEDs (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, or valproate). Lamotrigine did not displace other AEDs (carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital) from protein-binding sites.

## Elimination

Following multiple administrations (150 mg twice daily) to normal volunteers taking no other medications, lamotrigine induced its own metabolism, resulting in a 25% decrease, and in 37% increase in CL<sub>T</sub> (N = 8) were influenza (lamotrigine 8%, placebo 2%), conjunctivitis (lamotrigine 5%, placebo 5%), upper abdominal pain (lamotrigine 5%, placebo 1%), and suicidal ideation (lamotrigine 5%, placebo 0%).

## Elimination

Lamotrigine has an appreciable effect on steady-state phenytoin plasma concentrations in patients with epilepsy. The apparent clearance of lamotrigine is affected by the coadministration of certain medications (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)).

## Pharmacokinetic Parameters

The apparent clearance of lamotrigine is affected by the coadministration of certain medications (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)).

## Drug Interactions

The net effects of drug interactions with lamotrigine are summarized in Table 1, followed by details of the drug interaction studies.

## Table 1. Summary of Drug Interactions with Lamotrigine

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