

Patient presents with Seizures or unacceptable side effects

Diagnose Partial or Primary Generalized Epilepsy

(simple partial, complex partial, primary or secondarily generalized tonic clonic, absence, juvenile myoclonic, atonic, etc)

Valproate (sodium valproate, divalproex sodium)
(Depakene(valproic acid), Depakote/Depakote ER, Depakote Sprinkles, Depakote liquid)

Initiate dose at 15mg/kg/day in divided doses

Increase by 250-500 mg/day per week to an initial maintenance dose of ~ 40-60mg/kg/day
(target concentration 50-100mcg/ml)
Inhibits the cytochrome P-450 enzymes and monitoring of concomitant drug therapy is advised.
Caution should be with lamotrigine as its clearance is reduced by 50%

Patient returns to clinic in 2-4 weeks to monitor for efficacy, side effects. (see drug information for common adverse effects)
Return based on frequency of seizures.
Drug level monitoring required if adverse events or efficacy/compliance in question

Patient doing well on drug/few to no seizures

Titrate to chosen maintenance dose

Patient returns to clinic
(4-8 weeks depending on problems)

Patient doing well

Patient not doing well on drug

Adverse events/no seizures

Reduce dose and/or slow titration
Change dosage form or schedule

Adverse events/seizures

Reduce dose and/or slow titration
Change dosage form or schedule
Consider changing drug therapy

Patient not doing well

Patient no adverse events/seizures not controlled

Continue to titrate to chosen maintenance dose
(up to 60mg/kg/day)

Patient returns to clinic
(4-8 weeks depending on problems)

Patient doing well

Seizures/No Adverse Events
Increase dose

Adverse Events/Seizures
Modify dosage form
Modify schedule
Change drug

Adverse Events/No seizures
Modify dosage form
Modify schedule
Reduce dose

* When changing to Depakote ER follow package insert guidelines, increase dose by 8-20% over Depakote maintenance dose.

Indications for Valproate (Depakote, valproic acid) http://professionals.epilepsy.com/medications/p_depakote_indications.html, http://professionals.epilepsy.com/medications/p_valproicacid_indications.html

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