

Lamictal (lamotrigine)

Recommendations:

- Amendments to the Product Information

→ SmPC

“Section 4.4 Warnings and precautions

Skin rash

There have been reports of adverse skin reactions, which have generally occurred within the first eight weeks after initiation of lamotrigine treatment. The majority of rashes are mild and self-limiting, however serious rashes requiring hospitalisation and discontinuation of lamotrigine have also been reported.

These have included potentially life-threatening rashes such as Stevens–Johnson syndrome ~~and~~ toxic epidermal necrolysis ~~and Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS)~~ (see section 4.8).

.....

All patients (adults and children) who develop a rash should be promptly evaluated and lamotrigine withdrawn immediately unless the rash is clearly not related to lamotrigine treatment. It is recommended that lamotrigine not be restarted in patients who have discontinued due to rash associated with prior treatment with lamotrigine unless the potential benefit clearly outweighs the risk. If the patient has developed SJS, ~~or~~ TEN ~~or DRESS~~ with the use of lamotrigine, treatment with lamotrigine must not be re-started in this patient at any time.”

“Section 4.8 Undesirable effect

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Skin rash- Very common;

Stevens–Johnson Syndrome – Rare;

Toxic epidermal necrolysis - Very rare

~~DRESS – not known”~~

→ Package leaflet

→ For Lamictal and other lamotrigine containing products with the same PL as Lamictal:

Section 2 What you need to know before you take Lamictal/lamotrigine:

“Important information about potentially life-threatening reactions

A small number of people taking Lamictal get 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 a doctor’s help straight away’.***”

Section 4 Possible side effects:

.....
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 organs involvement (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 bleeding or bruising**, 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.*

.....
Other side effects

Other side effects have occurred in a small number of people 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 doctor or pharmacist if you are on long-term antiepileptic medication, have a history of osteoporosis, or take steroids.*
- ***DRESS.***

→ For other lamotrigine containing products with other wording concerning skin reactions in the PL:

Section 2 What you need to know before you take lamotrigine

Depending on the wording already included in the PL lamotrigine containing products a separate warning concerning DRESS:

Paragraph concerning warnings and precautions

“Lamotrigine can occasionally cause some serious allergic reactions or potentially life-threatening skin reactions (incl. DRESS). For more information on these reactions, please read section 4 (Possible side effects).

DRESS appears initially as flu-like symptoms and a rash on the face then an extended rash with a high temperature, increased levels of liver enzymes seen in blood tests and an increase in a type of white blood cell (eosinophilia) and enlarged lymph nodes.”

NB: In case the symptoms of the other skin reactions for lamotrigine are already included in the PL the symptoms for DRESS can be added to this wording.

Section 4 Possible side effects

In case skin reactions have been included in a separate paragraph in section 4, DRESS should be added e.g. like the following:

.....

“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 DRESS.”*

.....

Furthermore DRESS should be added under other side effects with frequency unknown; e.g

“Other side effects

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

- DRESS “

.....