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2. Zonegran

Zonegran

Generic name: [zonisamide](#) [*zoe-NIS-a-mide*]

Brand names: Zonegran, [Zonisade](#)

Drug class: [Carbonic anhydrase inhibitor anticonvulsants](#)

Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Aug 22, 2023.

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What is Zonegran?

Zonegran is a prescription medicine used together with other medicines to treat [partial seizures](#) in adults and teenagers at least 16 years old.

Zonegran belongs to a class of medications called anticonvulsants. Zonisamide works by decreasing abnormal electrical activity in the brain.

Warnings

Zonegran may cause a severe skin reaction that can be fatal. **Call your doctor right away if you have skin redness or a rash that spreads and causes blistering and peeling.**

Zonegran may cause decreased sweating and increased body temperature ([fever](#)). Children and people exposed to hot weather may be more likely to have this side effect.

Taking Zonegran can cause permanent vision loss. Tell your doctor right away if you have any eye pain or redness or any changes in your vision.

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking zonisamide. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor.

Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor, such as: mood or behavior changes, anxiety, panic attacks, trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, hostile, aggressive, restless, hyperactive (mentally or physically), more depressed, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

Zonegran may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert. Do not stop using this medicine without first talking to your doctor, even if you feel fine. You may have increased seizures if you stop using Zonegran suddenly. You may need to use less and less before you stop the medication completely.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Zonegran if you are allergic to zonisamide, or to other sulfa drugs such as sulfamethoxazole (Gantanol), sulfisoxazole (Gantrisin), or sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim (Bactrim, Septra, Sulfatrim, SMX-TMP, and others). A sulfa drug allergic reaction can be fatal.

You may not be able to take Zonegran if you have ever had a severe allergic to [sulfa drugs](#).

To make sure Zonegran is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- high levels of ammonia;
- [diarrhea](#);
- a growth problem;
- a bone disorder that causes soft or weak bones or low bone mineral density;
- [depression](#), mood changes, or suicidal thoughts or actions;
- if you have ever had [metabolic acidosis](#) (too much acid in your blood);
- if you have been on a ketogenic diet (high-fat, high-protein, low-carb);
- [liver disease](#); or
- kidney disease.

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking Zonegran. Your doctor will need to check your progress on a regular basis. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Your family or caregivers should also watch for sudden changes in your behavior.

May harm an unborn baby. Use [birth control](#) while using this medicine and for at least one month after your last dose. Tell your doctor right away if a pregnancy occurs.

If you are pregnant, your name may be listed on a pregnancy registry to track the effects of zonisamide on the baby.

Ask a doctor if it is safe to breastfeed while using this medicine.

 [Zonegran pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I take Zonegran?

Take Zonegran exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose.

You may take Zonegran with or without food and drink plenty of liquids while you are taking this medicine.

Swallow the capsule whole and do not crush, chew, break, or open it.

Shake the **oral suspension** (liquid). Measure a dose with the supplied measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

You will need blood and kidney function tests before and during treatment with Zonegran.

Seizures may increase if you stop using Zonegran suddenly. Ask your doctor before stopping the medicine. Follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

Do not share this medicine with another person, even if they have the same symptoms you have.

Throw away the oral suspension after 30 days, even if there is still medicine left inside.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Seizures:

16 years of age and older:

-Initial dose: 100 mg orally once a day

-Titration: After 2 weeks at 100 mg/day, the dose may be increased to 200 mg/day as either a single or divided dose (100 mg orally 2 times a day) for at least 2 weeks; it can then be increased to 300 mg/day, then 400 mg/day either as a single daily dose or divided into 2 daily doses, with the dose stable for at least 2 weeks to achieve steady state at each level

-Maintenance dose: 400 mg/day

-Maximum dose: 600 mg/day

Comments:

-This drug may be taken with or without food.

-Capsules should be swallowed whole.

-Because of the long half-life of this drug, up to 2 weeks may be required to achieve steady state levels upon reaching a stable dose or following dosage adjustment.

-The prescriber may wish to prolong the duration of treatment at the lower doses in order to fully assess the effects of this drug at steady state (noting that many of the side effects are more frequent at doses of 300 mg per day and above).

Although there is some evidence of greater response at doses above 100 to 200 mg/day, the increase appears small and formal dose response studies have not been conducted.

Use: As adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial seizures

Usual Pediatric Dose for Seizures:

Less than 16 years of age: Not recommended

16 years of age and older: See adult dosing

 [Detailed Zonegran dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include [slow heart rate](#), feeling light-headed, fainting, and slow or shallow breathing.

What should I avoid while taking Zonegran?

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

Drinking alcohol with this medicine can cause side effects.

Zonegran side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Zonegran** (hives, difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) **or a severe skin reaction** (fever, [sore throat](#), burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash with blistering and peeling).

Tell your doctor right away if you have new or sudden changes in mood or behavior, including new or worse depression or [anxiety](#), [panic attacks](#), trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, hostile, aggressive, restless, more active or talkative, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

Zonegran may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- eye pain or redness or any changes in your vision;
- decreased sweating, feeling very hot;
- increased or worsening seizures;
- any skin rash, no matter how mild;
- **signs of metabolic acidosis** - confusion, [vomiting](#), lack of energy, irregular heartbeats;
- **symptoms of a blood cell disorder** - fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms, sores in your mouth and throat;
- **signs of a kidney stone** - pain in your side or lower back, blood in your urine, stomach pain, painful or difficult urination; or
- **severe skin reaction** - fever, sore throat, swelling in your face or tongue, burning in your eyes, skin pain followed by a red or purple skin rash that spreads (especially in the face or upper body) and causes blistering and peeling.

Common Zonegran side effects may include:

- [drowsiness](#), dizziness;
- problems with memory or trouble concentrating;
- being agitated or feeling irritable;
- loss of coordination, trouble walking; or
- loss of appetite.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Zonegran side effects](#) (more detail)

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What other drugs will affect Zonegran?

Taking Zonegran with other drugs that make you drowsy can worsen this effect. Ask your doctor before taking Zonegran with a sleeping pill, narcotic pain medicine, muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety or seizures.

Other drugs may interact with zonisamide, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use.

Does Zonegran interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Zonegran

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Ingredients

Active ingredient: zonisamide.

Inactive ingredients, 25mg capsules: microcrystalline cellulose, hydrogenated vegetable oil, sodium lauryl sulfate, gelatin, and titanium dioxide.

Inactive ingredients, 100mg capsules: microcrystalline cellulose, hydrogenated vegetable oil, sodium lauryl sulfate, gelatin, titanium dioxide, FD& C Red No. 40 and FD& C Yellow No. 6.

Manufacturer

Manufactured for Concordia Pharmaceuticals.

Distributed by: Amdipharm Limited, 17 Northwood House, Dublin 9.

References

1. [Zonegran Product Label](#)

More about Zonegran (zonisamide)

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Other brands

[Zonisade](#)

Professional resources

- [Zonegran prescribing information](#)
- [Zonisamide \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Zonisade](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Seizures](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Zonegran only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

[Pregnancy & Lactation](#)

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug

10+ years

Approval History

FDA approved 2000



User Reviews & Ratings

6.5 / 10

66 Reviews

Images

Zonegran 100 mg (LOGO ZONEGRAN 100)



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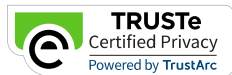
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