



[Home](#)

2. Depakote ER

Depakote ER

Generic name: [divalproex sodium](#) [dye-val-PRO-ex]

Brand names: [Depakote](#), Depakote ER, [Depakote Sprinkles](#)

Drug class: [Fatty acid derivative anticonvulsants](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Feb 17, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is Depakote ER?

[Depakote](#) ER comes in different pill forms that are for different uses.

Depakote ER **tablets** and **capsules** are used to treat [seizures](#) in people with [epilepsy](#) who are at least 10 years old. This medicine tablets are sometimes used together with other seizure medications.

Depakote ER **tablets** are also used in adults to prevent migraine headaches, or to treat manic episodes related to [bipolar disorder](#) ([manic depression](#)).

Depakote ER may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Depakote ER side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction** (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).

Seek medical treatment if you have a serious drug reaction that can affect many parts of your body. Symptoms may include: skin rash, fever, swollen glands, muscle aches, severe weakness, unusual bruising, or yellowing of your skin or eyes.

Call your doctor at once if the person taking Depakote ER has signs of liver or pancreas problems, such as: loss of appetite, upper stomach pain (that may spread to your back), ongoing nausea or vomiting, dark urine, swelling in the face, or [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

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

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these other side effects:

- easy bruising, unusual bleeding (nose, mouth, or gums), purple or red pinpoint spots under your skin;
- fever, swollen glands, mouth sores;
- confusion, tiredness, cold feeling, vomiting, change in your mental state;
- severe [drowsiness](#); or
- worsening seizures.

Common side effects of Depakote ER may include:

- nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhea, [constipation](#);
- headache, [back pain](#);
- dizziness, drowsiness, weakness, tremors;
- memory problems, mood changes, trouble sleeping;
- bruising or bleeding;
- runny nose, sore throat, cough, [wheezing](#), trouble breathing;
- fever, flu symptoms;
- problems with walking or coordination;
- swelling in your hands or feet;
- blurred vision, double vision, unusual eye movements;
- ringing in your ears;
- rash, [hair loss](#); or
- changes in weight or 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.

 [Depakote ER side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

You should not use Depakote ER if you have [liver disease](#), a urea cycle disorder, or a genetic disorder such as Alpers' disease or Alpers-Huttenlocher syndrome.

Do not start or stop taking Depakote ER during pregnancy without your doctor's advice. This medicine may harm

an unborn baby, but having a seizure during pregnancy could harm both mother and baby. **Do not use this medicine to prevent migraine headaches if you are pregnant.**

Depakote ER can cause liver failure that may be fatal, especially in children under age 2 and in people with liver problems caused by certain genetic disorders.

Call your doctor at once if the person taking this medicine has signs of liver or pancreas problems, such as: loss of appetite, upper stomach pain (that may spread to your back), ongoing nausea or vomiting, dark urine, swelling in the face, or jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

Do not stop using Depakote ER without your doctor's advice. Stopping suddenly may cause a serious, life-threatening type of seizure.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Depakote ER if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- liver disease;
- a urea cycle disorder; or
- a genetic mitochondrial (MYE-toe-KON-dree-al) disorder such as Alpers' disease or Alpers-Huttenlocher syndrome, **especially in a child younger than 2 years old.**

Depakote ER can cause liver failure that may be fatal, especially in children under age 2 and in people with liver problems caused by a genetic mitochondrial disorder.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- liver problems caused by a genetic mitochondrial disorder;
- depression, mental illness, or suicidal thoughts or actions; or
- a family history of a urea cycle disorder or infant deaths with unknown cause.

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking Depakote ER. Your doctor will need to check your progress at regular visits. Your family or other caregivers should also be alert to changes in your mood or symptoms.

Using Depakote ER during pregnancy may increase the risk of serious birth defects that can develop early in pregnancy, even before you know you are pregnant. Using Depakote ER during pregnancy can also affect cognitive ability (reasoning, intelligence, problem-solving) later in your child's life. However, having a seizure during pregnancy could harm both the mother and the baby.

If you take Depakote ER for seizures or manic episodes: The benefit of preventing seizures or manic episodes may outweigh any risks posed by this medicine. There may be other medications that are safer to use during pregnancy. **Do not start or stop taking this medicine without your doctor's advice.**

Do not use Depakote ER to prevent migraine headaches if you are pregnant or you could become pregnant.

If you are not pregnant, use effective birth control to prevent pregnancy while using Depakote ER. Tell your doctor if you start or stop using hormonal contraception that contains estrogen ([birth control pills](#), injections, implants, skin patches, and vaginal rings). Estrogen can interact with this medicine and make it less effective in preventing seizures.

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk.

How should I take Depakote ER?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Drink plenty of water while you are taking this medication. Your dose may need to be changed if you do not get enough fluids each day.

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

If you cannot swallow a **sprinkle capsule** whole, open it and sprinkle the medicine into a spoonful of pudding or applesauce. Swallow the mixture right away. Do not save it for later use.

You may need frequent blood tests.

If you need surgery, tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using Depakote ER.

In case of emergency, wear or carry medical identification to let others know you use Depakote ER.

Do not stop using Depakote ER suddenly, even if you feel fine. Stopping suddenly may cause a serious, life-threatening type of seizure. Follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Depakote ER 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.

What should I avoid while taking Depakote ER?

Drinking alcohol may increase certain side effects of [divalproex sodium](#).

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

What other drugs will affect Depakote ER?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medications at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you take, which may increase side effects or make the medications less effective.

Many drugs can affect Depakote ER. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal](#)

[products](#). **Not all possible interactions are listed here.** Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Depakote ER drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Depakote ER interact with my other drugs?

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

Depakote ER

+

Enter a drug name

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Professional resources

- [Depakote ER prescribing information](#)

Other formulations

- [Depakote](#)
- [Depakote Sprinkles](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Bipolar Disorder](#)
- [Seizures](#)

- [Mania](#)
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Further information

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

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

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

[Pregnancy & Lactation](#)


 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug



Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

7.3 / 10

[98 Reviews](#)

Images

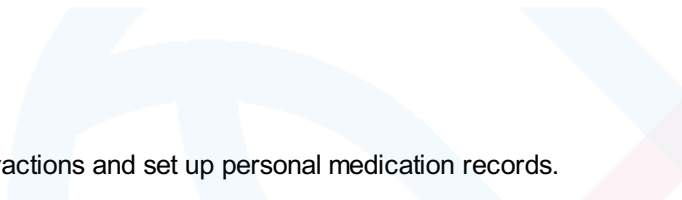
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