



## 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

### 8.1 Pregnancy

#### Pregnancy Exposure Registry

There is a pregnancy exposure registry that monitors pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to topiramate during pregnancy. Patients should be encouraged to enroll in the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAED) Pregnancy Registry if they become pregnant. This registry is collecting information on the safety of antiepileptic drugs during pregnancy. To enroll, patients can call the toll-free number 1-888-233-2334. Information about the North American Drug Pregnancy Registry can be found at <http://www.aedpregnancyregistry.org/>.

#### Risk Summary

Topiramate can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Data from pregnancy registries indicate that infants exposed to topiramate *in utero* have an increased risk for cleft lip and/or cleft palate (oral clefts) and for being SGA [see Human Data]. SGA has been observed at all doses and appears to be dose-dependent. The prevalence of SGA is greater in infants of women who received higher doses of topiramate during pregnancy. In addition, the prevalence of SGA in infants of women who continued topiramate use until later in pregnancy is higher compared to the prevalence in infants of women who stopped topiramate use before the third trimester. In multiple animal species, topiramate produced developmental toxicity, including increased incidences of fetal malformations, in the absence of maternal toxicity at clinically relevant doses [see Animal Data].

In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risks of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies are 2–4% and 15–20%, respectively.

#### Congenital Anomalies

##### Fetal/Neonatal Adverse Reactions

Consider the benefits and risks of topiramate when prescribing this drug to women of childbearing potential, particularly when topiramate is considered for a condition not usually associated with permanent injury or death. Because of the risk of oral clefts to the fetus, which occur in the first trimester of pregnancy, all women of childbearing potential should be informed of the potential risk to the fetus from exposure to topiramate. Women who are planning a pregnancy should be counseled regarding the relative risks and benefits of topiramate use during pregnancy, and alternative therapeutic options should be considered for these patients.

#### Labor or Delivery

Although the effect of topiramate on labor and delivery in humans has not been established, the development of topiramate-induced metabolic acidosis in the mother and/or in the fetus might affect the fetus' ability to tolerate labor.

Topiramate treatment can cause metabolic acidosis [see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)]. The effect of topiramate-induced metabolic acidosis has not been studied in pregnancy, however, metabolic acidosis in pregnancy (due to other causes) can cause decreased fetal growth, decreased fetal oxygenation, and fetal death and may affect the fetus' ability to tolerate labor. Pregnant patients should be monitored for metabolic acidosis and treated as in the nonpregnant state [see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)]. Newborns of mothers treated with topiramate should be monitored for metabolic acidosis because of transfer of topiramate to the fetus and possible occurrence of transient metabolic acidosis following birth [see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)].

Based on limited information, topiramate has also been associated with pre-term labor and premature delivery.

#### Data

##### Human Data

Data from pregnancy registries indicate an increased risk of oral clefts in infants exposed to topiramate during the first trimester of pregnancy. In the NAED Pregnancy Registry, the prevalence of oral clefts among topiramate-exposed infants (1.1%) was higher than the prevalence of infants exposed to a reference AED (0.36%) or the prevalence of infants in mothers without epilepsy and without exposure to AEDs (0.12%). It was also higher than the background prevalence in the United States (1.1%) as estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The relative risk of oral clefts in topiramate-exposed pregnancies in the NAED Pregnancy Registry was 9.6 (95% Confidence Interval [CI] 4.0 – 23.0) as compared to the risk in a background population of untreated women. The UK Epilepsy and Pregnancy Register reported a prevalence of oral clefts among infants exposed to topiramate (3.2%) that was 16 times higher than the background rate in the UK (0.2%).

Data from the NAED pregnancy registry and a population-based birth registry cohort indicate that exposure to topiramate *in utero* is associated with an increased risk of SGA newborns (birth weight <10% percentile). In the NAED pregnancy registry, 19.7% of topiramate-exposed newborns were SGA compared to 9% of newborns exposed to a reference AED and 5.4% of newborns of mothers without epilepsy and without exposure to AEDs. Data from the population-based registry showed that exposure to topiramate was associated with a 20% increase in the risk of SGA newborns (birth weight <10% percentile). In the NAED pregnancy registry, 19.7% of topiramate-exposed newborns were SGA compared to 9% of newborns exposed to a reference AED and 5.4% of newborns of mothers without epilepsy and without exposure to AEDs. Evidence of maternal toxicity (decreased body weight gain, and/or mortality) was seen at 20 mg/kg/day and above. Maternal toxicity (decreased body weight gain, and/or mortality) was evident at 100 mg/kg/day or greater. In a rat embryofetal developmental study which included postnatal assessment of offspring, oral administration of topiramate (0, 0.2, 2.5, 10, and 400 mg/kg) to pregnant rats resulted in delayed embryonic development, decreased physical development in offspring at 400 mg/kg/day and persistent reductions in body weight gain in offspring at 30 mg/kg/day and higher. The no-effect dose (0.2 mg/kg/day) for pre- and postnatal developmental toxicity in rats is less than the MRHD for epilepsy or migraine on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis.

When topiramate (0, 0.2, 100, or 500 mg/kg/day) was administered to pregnant mice during the period of organogenesis, incidence of fetal malformations (primarily craniofacial defects) were increased at all doses. Fetal body weights and skeletal ossification were reduced at the highest dose in conjunction with decreased maternal body weight gain. A no-effect dose for embryofetal developmental toxicity in mice was not identified. The lowest dose tested, which was associated with increased malformations, is less than the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) for epilepsy (400 mg/day) or migraine (100 mg/day on a body surface area [mg/m<sup>2</sup>] basis).

In pregnant rats administered topiramate (0, 0.2, 100, and 500 mg/kg/day or 0, 0.2, 2.5, 30, and 400 mg/kg/day) orally during the period of organogenesis, the frequency of limb malformations (ectrodactyly, micromelia, and amelia) was increased in fetuses at 400 and 500 mg/kg/day. Embryotoxicity (reduced fetal body weight, increased incidence of structural variations) was observed at doses as low as 20 mg/kg/day. Clinical signs of maternal toxicity were seen at 400 mg/kg/day and above, and maternal body weight gain was reduced at doses of 100 mg/kg/day or greater. The no-effect dose (2.5 mg/kg/day) for embryofetal developmental toxicity in rats is less than the MRHD for epilepsy or migraine on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis.

In pregnant rabbits administered topiramate (0, 20, 60, and 180 mg/kg/day or 0, 10, 35, and 120 mg/kg/day) orally during organogenesis, embryofetal mortality was increased at 35 mg/kg/day, and increased incidences of fetal malformations (primarily tail and vertebral malformations) were observed at 120 mg/kg/day and above. Maternal toxicity (decreased body weight gain, and/or mortality) was seen at 35 mg/kg/day and above. The no-effect dose (20 mg/kg/day) for embryofetal developmental toxicity in rabbits is equivalent to the MRHD for epilepsy or migraine on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis.

When topiramate (0, 0.2, 4.0, and 100 mg/kg/day or 0, 2.0, 20, and 200 mg/kg/day) was administered orally to female rats during the latter part of gestation and through lactation, offspring exhibited decreased viability and delayed physical development at 200 mg/kg/day and reductions in pre- and/or postnatal body weight gain at 2 mg/kg/day and above. Maternal toxicity (decreased body weight gain, and/or mortality) was evident at 100 mg/kg/day or greater. In a rat embryofetal developmental study which included postnatal assessment of offspring, oral administration of topiramate (0, 0.2, 2.5, 10, and 400 mg/kg) to pregnant rats resulted in delayed embryonic development, decreased physical development in offspring at 400 mg/kg/day and persistent reductions in body weight gain in offspring at 30 mg/kg/day and higher. The no-effect dose (0.2 mg/kg/day) for pre- and postnatal developmental toxicity in rats is less than the MRHD for epilepsy or migraine on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis.

#### 8.2 Lactation

##### Risk Summary

Topiramate is excreted in human milk [see Data]. The effects of topiramate on milk production are unknown. Diarrhea and somnolence have been reported in breastfed infants whose mothers receive topiramate and breastfeed.

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

#### Data

##### Human Data

Limited data from 5 women with epilepsy treated with topiramate during lactation showed drug levels in milk similar to those in maternal plasma.

#### 8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential

##### Contraception

Women of childbearing potential who are not planning a pregnancy should use effective contraception because of the risks of oral clefts and SGA [see Drug Interactions (7.4) and Use in Specific Populations (8.1)].

#### 8.4 Pediatric Use

Adjuvantive Treatment for Partial-Onset Epilepsy in Pediatric Patients 1 to 24 Months  
Safety and effectiveness in patients below the age of 2 years have not been established for the adjuvantive therapy treatment of partial-onset seizures, primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures, or seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome. In a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, investigator-blind trial, the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of topiramate oral liquid and sprinkle formulations as an adjunct to concurrent antiepileptic drug therapy in pediatric patients 1 to 24 months of age with refractory partial-onset seizures were assessed. After 20 days of double-blind treatment, topiramate (at fixed doses of 5, 15, and 25 mg/kg/day) did not demonstrate efficacy compared with placebo in controlling seizures.

In general, the adverse reaction profile for topiramate in this population was similar to that of older pediatric patients, although results from the above controlled study and an open-label, long-term treatment study in these pediatric patients, 1 to 24 months old, suggested some adverse reactions/toxicities not previously observed in older pediatric patients and adults, i.e., growth/length retardation, certain clinical laboratory abnormalities, and other adverse reactions/toxicities that occurred with a greater frequency and/or greater severity than had been recognized previously from studies in older pediatric patients or adults for various indications.

These very young pediatric patients appeared to experience an increased risk for infections (any topiramate dose 12%, placebo 0%) and of respiratory disorders (any topiramate dose 40%, placebo 16%). The following adverse reactions were observed in at least 3% of patients on topiramate and were 3% to 7% more frequent than in patients on placebo: viral infection, bronchitis, pharyngitis, rhinitis, otitis media, upper respiratory infection, cough, and bronchospasm. A generally similar profile was observed in older pediatric patients [see Adverse Reactions (6)]. Topiramate resulted in an increased incidence of patients with increased creatinine (any topiramate dose 5%, placebo 0%), BUN (any topiramate dose 3%, placebo 0%), and protein (any topiramate dose 34%, placebo 0%), and an increased incidence of decreased potassium (any topiramate dose 7%, placebo 0%). This increased frequency of abnormal values was not dose-related. Creatinine was the only analyte showing a noteworthy increased incidence (topiramate 25 mg/kg/day 5%, placebo 0%) of a markedly abnormal increase. The significance of these findings is uncertain.

Topiramate treatment also produced a dose-related increase in the percentage of patients who had a shift from normal to alkaline phosphatase (above the normal reference range) in total esophagol court at the end of treatment. The incidence of these abnormal shifts was 6% for placebo, 10% for 5 mg/kg/day, 9% for 15 mg/kg/day, 14% for 25 mg/kg/day, and 11% for any topiramate dose. There was a mean dose-related increase in alkaline phosphatase. The significance of these findings is uncertain.

Topiramate produced a dose-related increase of hyperammonemia [see Warnings and Precautions (5.10)].

Treatment with topiramate for up to 1 year was associated with reductions in ZSCORES for length, weight, and head circumference [see Warnings and Precautions (5.4), Adverse Reactions (6)].

In open-label, uncontrolled experience, increasing impairment of adaptive behavior was documented in behavioral testing over time in this population. There was a suggestion that this effect was dose related. However, because of the absence of an appropriate control group, it is not known if this improvement in function was treatment-related or reflects the patient's underlying disease. In patients who received higher doses may have more severe underlying disease [see Warnings and Precautions (5.6)].

In this open-label, uncontrolled study, the mortality was 37 deaths/1000 patient years. It is not possible to know whether this mortality rate is related to topiramate treatment, because the background mortality rate for a similar, significantly refractory, young pediatric population (1–24 months with partial epilepsy) is not known.

#### Monotherapy Treatment in Partial-Onset Epilepsy in Patients <2 Years Old

Safety and effectiveness in patients below the age of 2 years have not been established for the monotherapy treatment of epilepsy.

#### Preventive Treatment of Migraine in Pediatric Patients 12 to 17 Years of Age

Safety and effectiveness of topiramate for the preventive treatment of migraine was studied in 5 double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel-group trials in a total of 219 pediatric patients.

at doses of 50 to 200 mg/day, and 2 to 3 mg/kg/day. These comprised a fixed dose study in 403 pediatric patients 12 to 17 years of age [see Clinical Studies (14.3)], a flexible dose (2 to 3 mg/kg/day), placebo-controlled study in 157 pediatric patients 6 to 16 years of age [including 67 pediatric patients 12 to 16 years of age], and a total of 48 pediatric patients 12 to 17 years of age in 3 studies for the preventive treatment of migraine primarily in adults. Open-label extension phases of 3 studies enabled evaluation of long-term safety for up to 6 months after the end of the double-blind phase.

Efficacy of topiramate for the preventive treatment of migraine in pediatric patients 12 to 17 years of age is summarized in Table 15. The mean daily dose in Study 13 [see Clinical Studies (14.3)] of topiramate (2 to 3 mg/kg/day) for the preventive treatment of migraine was not demonstrated in a placebo-controlled trial of 157 pediatric patients (6 to 16 years of age) that included treatment of 67 pediatric patients 12 to 16 years of age for 20 weeks.

In the pediatric trials (12 to 17 years of age) in which patients were randomized to placebo or a fixed daily dose of topiramate, the most common adverse reactions with topiramate that were seen at an incidence higher (>5%) than in the placebo group were: paresthesia, upper respiratory tract infection, asthenia, and abdominal pain. In the prevalence of SGA in infants of women who continued topiramate use until later in pregnancy is higher compared to the prevalence in infants of women who stopped topiramate use before the third trimester.

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Although the effect of topiramate on labor and delivery in humans has not been established, the development of topiramate-induced metabolic acidosis in the mother and/or in the fetus might affect the fetus' ability to tolerate labor.

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In pregnant rabbits administered topiramate (0, 20, 60, and 180 mg/kg/day or 0, 10, 35, and 120 mg/kg/day) orally during organogenesis, embryofetal mortality was increased at 35 mg/kg/day, and increased incidences of fetal malformations (primarily tail and vertebral malformations) were observed at 120 mg/kg/day and above. Maternal toxicity (decreased body weight gain, and/or mortality) was seen at 35 mg/kg/day and above. The no-effect dose (20 mg/kg/day) for embryofetal developmental toxicity in rabbits is equivalent to the MRHD for epilepsy or migraine on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis.

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#### 8.2 Lactation

##### Risk Summary

Topiramate is excreted in human milk [see Data]. The effects of topiramate on milk production are unknown. Diarrhea and somnolence have been reported in breastfed infants whose mothers receive topiramate and breastfeed.

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#### Monotherapy Treatment in Partial-Onset Epilepsy in Patients <2 Years Old

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#### Preventive Treatment of Migraine in Pediatric Patients 12 to 17 Years of Age

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then observed in young adults. Topiramate clearance is decreased in the elderly only to the extent that renal function is reduced [see Dosage and Administration (2.4) and Use in Specific Populations (8.3)].

#### Pediatric Pharmacokinetics

Pharmacokinetics of topiramate were evaluated in patients age 2 to <16 years. Patients received either no or a combination of other antiepileptic drugs. A noncompartmental model was developed based on pharmacokinetic data from relevant topiramate studies. This dataset contained data from 1217 subjects including 258 pediatric patients age 2 to <16 years (65 pediatric patients <10 years of age).

Pediatric patients on adjuvantive treatment exhibited a higher oral clearance (CL<sub>R</sub>) of topiramate compared to patients on monotherapy, presumably because of increased clearance from concomitant enzyme inducing antiepileptic drugs. In comparison, topiramate clearance per kg is higher in pediatric patients than adults and in young pediatric patients (below 2 years) than in older pediatric patients. Consequently, the plasma drug concentration for the same mg/kg/day dose would be lower in pediatric patients compared to adults and in young pediatric patients compared to older pediatric patients. Clearance was independent of dose.

As in adults, hepatic enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs decrease the steady state plasma concentrations of topiramate.

#### Drug Interactions

*In vitro* studies indicate that topiramate does not inhibit CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2E1, or CYP3A4/5 isozymes. *In vitro* studies indicate that topiramate is a mild inhibitor of CYP2C19 and a mild inducer of CYP3A4.

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#### Antiepileptic Drugs

Potential interactions between topiramate and standard AEDs were assessed in controlled clinical pharmacokinetic studies in patients with epilepsy. The effects of these interactions on mean plasma AUC are summarized in Table 16.

In Table 16, the second column (AED concentration) describes what happens to the concentration of the co-administered AED listed in the first column when topiramate is added. The third column (topiramate concentration) describes how the co-administration of a drug listed in the first column affects the concentration of topiramate when compared to topiramate given alone.

**Table 10. Summary of AED Interactions with Topiramate**

AED	AED Concentration	Topiramate Concentration
Phenytoin	NC or 25% increase*	48% decrease
Carbamazepine (CBZ)	NC	40% decrease
CBZ epoxide†	NC	NE
Valproic acid	11% decrease	14% decrease
Phenobarbital	NC	NE
Primidone	NC	NE
Lamotrigine	NC at TPM doses up to 400 mg/day	13% decrease

NC = Less than 10% change in plasma concentration.  
AED = Antiepileptic drug.  
NE = Not evaluated.

\* = Plasma concentration increased 25% in some patients, generally those on a twice a day dosing regimen of phenytoin.  
† = Topiramate did not affect the active metabolite of carbamazepine.

Oral Contraceptives  
In a pharmacokinetic interaction study in healthy volunteers with a concomitantly administered combination oral contraceptive product containing 1 mg norethindrone (NET) plus 35 mcg ethinyl estradi