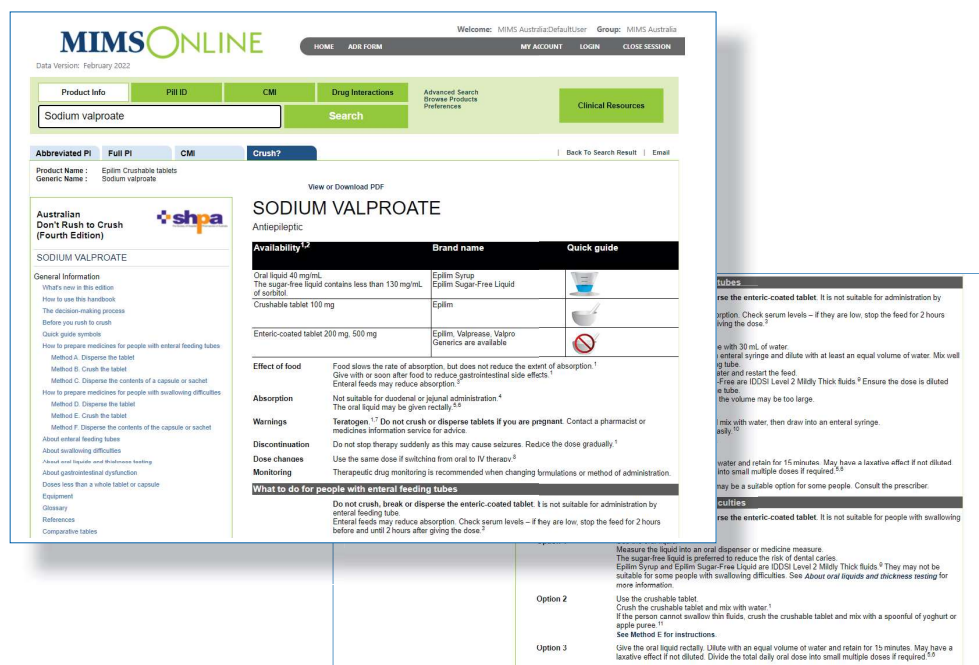


Latest Don't Rush to Crush – 4th Edition is now on MIMSONLINE

New to the 4th Edition of Don't Rush to Crush

About oral liquids and thickness testing provides information that is helpful when considering the safest option for a person with swallowing difficulties. For some people, the thickness of liquids or food is the most important factor to consider. Over 100 oral liquid medicines have been tested using the [International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative \(IDDSI\)](#) testing methods and the resulting thickness levels are included in the monographs.

About gastrointestinal dysfunction provides guidance about the important factors to consider when giving medicines to people who have undergone gastrointestinal surgery, or who have altered gastrointestinal function.



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Product Info PBI ID CM Drug Interactions Advanced Search Browse Products Preferences Clinical Resources

Sodium valproate Search

Abbreviated PI Full PI CM Crush? Back To Search Result Email

Product Name: Epilim Crushable tablets
Generic Name: Sodium valproate



Australian Don't Rush to Crush (Fourth Edition)

SODIUM VALPROATE

General Information
What's new in this edition
How to use this handbook
The decision-making process
Before you rush to crush
Quick guide symbols
How to prepare medicines for people with enteral feeding tubes
Method A: Dispense the tablet
Method B: Crush the tablet
Method C: Dispense the contents of a capsule or sachet
How to prepare medicines for people with swallowing difficulties
Method D: Dispense the tablet
Method E: Crush the tablet
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About enteral feeding tubes
About swallowing difficulties
About oral liquids and thickness testing
About gastrointestinal dysfunction
Doses less than a whole tablet or capsule
Equipment
Glossary
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SODIUM VALPROATE
Antiepileptic

Availability ^{1,2}	Brand name	Quick guide
Oral liquid 40 mg/mL The sugar-free liquid contains less than 130 mg/mL of sorbitol.	Epilim Syrup Epilim Sugar-Free Liquid	
Crushable tablet 100 mg	Epilim	
Enteric-coated tablet 200 mg, 500 mg	Epilim, Valproase, Valpro Generics are available	

Effect of food
Food slows the rate of absorption, but does not reduce the extent of absorption.¹
Give with or soon after food to reduce gastrointestinal side effects.
Enteral feeds may reduce absorption.^{1,2}

Absorption
Not suitable for duodenal or jejunal administration.⁴
The oral liquid may be given rectally.^{1,2}

Warnings
Teratogen.^{1,2} Do not crush or disperse tablets if you are pregnant. Contact a pharmacist or medicines information service for advice.

Discontinuation
Do not stop therapy suddenly as this may cause seizures. Reduce the dose gradually.¹

Dose changes
Use the same dose if switching from oral to IV therapy.³

Monitoring
Therapeutic drug monitoring is recommended when changing formulations or method of administration.

What to do for people with enteral feeding tubes
Do not crush, break or disperse the enteric-coated tablet. It is not suitable for administration by enteral feeding tubes.
Enteral feeds may reduce absorption. Check serum levels – if they are low, stop the feed for 2 hours before and until 2 hours after giving the dose.²

Option 2
Measure the liquid into an oral dispenser or medicine measure.
The sugar-free liquid is preferred to reduce the risk of dental caries.
Epilim Syrup and Epilim Sugar-Free Liquid are IDDSI Level 2 Mildly Thick fluids.³ They may not be suitable for some people with swallowing difficulties. See About oral liquids and thickness testing for more information.

Option 3
Use the crushable tablet.
Crush the crushable tablet and mix with water.¹
If the person cannot swallow thin fluids, crush the crushable tablet and mix with a spoonful of yoghurt or apple puree.¹
See Method E for instructions.
Give the oral liquid rectally. Utlute with an equal volume of water and retain for 15 minutes. May have a laxative effect if not diluted. Divide the total daily oral dose into small multiple doses if required.^{4,5}

Tubes
Do not crush, break or disperse the enteric-coated tablet. It is not suitable for administration by enteral feeding tubes.
Check serum levels – if they are low, stop the feed for 2 hours before and until 2 hours after giving the dose.²

Thick fluids
Mix with 30 mL of water.
Use enteral syringes and dilute with at least an equal volume of water. Mix well.
If the person cannot swallow thin fluids, crush the crushable tablet and mix with a spoonful of yoghurt or apple puree.
If you are IDDSI Level 2 Mildly Thick fluids.³ Ensure the dose is diluted to a volume that is suitable for the person's swallowing difficulties.
Mix with water, then draw into an enteral syringe.
Administer slowly.^{1,2}

Swallowing difficulties
Do not crush, break or disperse the enteric-coated tablet. It is not suitable for people with swallowing difficulties.