

Valproic acid and interaction with carbapenems

Final SPC and PL wording agreed by the PhVWP in January 2010

*Doc. Ref.: CMDh/PhVWP/017/2010
January 2010*

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

Section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

The concomitant use of valproic acid/sodium valproate and carbapenem agents is not recommended (see section 4.5).

Section 4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Decreases in blood levels of valproic acid have been reported when it is co-administered with carbapenem agents resulting in a 60-100 % decrease in valproic acid levels in about two days. Due to the rapid onset and the extent of the decrease, co-administration of carbapenem agents in patients stabilised on valproic acid is not considered to be manageable and therefore should be avoided (see section 4.4).

PACKAGE LEAFLET

Section 2. Before you use...

Using other medicines

In particular, tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking any of the following medicines:

Carbapenem agents (antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections). The combination of valproic acid and carbapenems should be avoided because it may decrease the effect of sodium valproate.