

# Ethosuximide

Ethosuximide is an anticonvulsant medication used to treat absence seizures, or petit mal seizures, which are mostly seen in school-age children. This drug is a first line agent for this neurological disorder, and is preferred over similar drugs because it does not cause hepatotoxicity. The mechanism of action for ethosuximide is blocking thalamic t-type Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels, leading to decreased neuronal transmission. Side effects of this drug include Stevens-Johnson syndrome, which is a life-threatening skin and mucous membrane hypersensitivity reaction, fatigue, and diarrhea, while constipation can occur in some.



**PLAY PICMONIC** 

### **Indications**

### First Line Absence Seizure Treatment

First-place Absent-mind Caesar

Ethosuxamide is used as a first line agent to treat absence seizures (petit mal seizures), and is preferred over other agents because this drug does not cause hepatotoxicity.

#### **Mechanism of Action**

## **Blocks Thalamic T-Type Ca2+ Channels**

Block-guy blocking Thor-T on Calcium-cow at Channel

This medication binds and blocks thalamic T-type Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels. T-type channels serve pacemaking functions in both central neurons and support calcium signaling, and are also involved in the modulation of firing patterns of neurons.

### **Side Effects**

# Stevens-Johnson Syndrome

Steve-Johns

Ethosuxamide can trigger Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Stevens-Johnson syndrome is a life threatening skin condition, which is a hypersensitivity complex affecting the skin and mucous membranes.

### **Fatigue**

Sleepy-guy

Patients taking ethosuximide can complain of fatigue, as this is a common side effect.

### Diarrhea

Toilet

Patients taking this drug often have the side effect of diarrhea and GI upset. Constipation can also occur.