Drug interactions: Topiramate

Topiramate is a liver enzyme inducing medication. There is limited information available on interactions between topiramate and hormonal contraception. Two studies have investigated the effect of topiramate on a combined oral contraceptive containing 35mcg of ethinyl estradiol and 1 mg norethisterone. The first investigated the effect of the addition of topiramate at doses of 200mg, 400mg and 800 mg per day. There was a dose related reduction in half-life of norethisterone and in the bioavailability of ethinyl estradiol. A second study investigated the effect of lower doses of topiramate and showed an overall non-significant reduction in bioavailability for either ethinyl estradiol or norethisterone at doses below 200 mg per day, however the study numbers were small. As topiramate has an association with fetal abnormalities and its use is classified as D in pregnancy, caution is recommended and an interaction between topiramate and hormonal contraceptives an interaction cannot be excluded at any dose.

Conclusion
Topiramate at any dose should be treated as a liver enzyme inducer in relation to guidance on contraception use.

References

State / Territory sexual health and family planning organisations

Western Australia
SHQ (Sexual Health Quarters)
shq.org.au

Northern Territory
Family Planning Welfare Association of NT
fpwnt.com.au

South Australia
SHINE SA
shinesa.org.au

Queensland
True
true.org.au

ACT
Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
shfpact.org.au

New South Wales
Family Planning NSW
fpnsw.org.au

Victoria
Family Planning Victoria
fpv.org.au

Tasmania
Family Planning Tasmania
fpt.asn.au