

Information on Tamiflu

Tamiflu is an antiviral drug known as neuraminidase inhibitors that fight against both influenza A and B viruses. It is approved to both treat and prevent flu in people one year of age and older. Tamiflu has been in use since 1999.

Side effects:

The most common side effects are nausea and vomiting which usually happen in the first 2 days of treatment. Taking Tamiflu with food can reduce the chance of getting these side effects.

Other adverse reactions are :

Abdominal pain, dyspepsia, diarrhea, headache, fatigue, insomnia, dizziness, conjunctivitis, epistaxis, rash

Less common adverse reactions are : :

Hepatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis

People with the flu, mostly children, may be at an increased risk of self-injury and confusion shortly after taking and should be closely monitored for signs of unusual behavior. There have been post marketing reports (mostly from Japan) about persons (primarily among children and adolescents) who had purposefully injured themselves or been delirious while using neuraminidase inhibitors, mostly among persons using Tamiflu to treat influenza. The reports appear to be uncommon.

Contact a health care professional immediately if someone taking Tamiflu® shows any signs of unusual behavior.

Attention:

There are no adequate data on the use of oseltamivir in pregnant women. The animal toxicology studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to pregnancy or fetal development. No serious side effects have been reported. Use in several hundred women during pregnancy has not provided any evidence of harm to the fetus. In normal circumstances, these drugs are not recommended for use in pregnancy unless the benefit to the mother justifies the theoretical risk to the fetus. In the current circumstances of H1N1 Human Swine Influenza the balance of benefit to risk supports their use and they should be provided for pregnant women. Indeed appropriate treatment of pregnant women with oseltamivir will help to reduce symptoms such as fever and this may benefit the developing fetus.