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Levetiracetam

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Therapeutic Reviews

Series Co-Editors: Andrew Wilcock, DM, FRCP, and Paul Howard BMedSci, MRCP

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Class: Anti-epileptic (SV2A ligand).

Indications: Adjunctive therapy of focal or generalized myoclonic and tonic-clonic seizures; †monotherapy of focal seizures (Authorized in UK); †status epilepticus.

Pharmacology

Levetiracetam binds to synaptic vesicle protein SV2A, interfering with the release of the neurotransmitter stored within the vesicle. It gains access after neurotransmitter release as the vesicles are recycled. Thus, it selectively accumulates in, and inhibits, rapidly firing neurons.¹ Levetiracetam also inhibits potassium and N-type calcium channels.^{1,2}

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