





Lithium


This is an easy way to read this word...lith-ee-um



	<p>What is this leaflet for?</p> <p>This leaflet is to help you understand more about your medicine.</p> <p>Your medicine could look different to the photographs on this leaflet.</p>
	<p>What is the medicine called?</p> <p>Lithium is also called Camcolit, Lithonate, Liskonum, Priadel or Li-liquid.</p> <p>You will see 1 of these names on your prescription.</p> <p>Lithium could come as tablets or as a liquid.</p>
	<p>What is lithium for?</p> <p>Lithium could be used for different reasons.</p> <p>Lithium is used for manic depressive disorder.</p> <p>Lithium is sometimes used for people who have behaviour problems.</p> <p>For example, it could...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• help if you are anxious• help calm you down• help you feel less angry• help you feel less tense.
	<p>What will lithium do?</p> <p>Lithium should help you feel calm and relaxed.</p> <p>It could take some time for lithium to have its full effect.</p> <p>This effect should reduce your behaviour problem.</p>



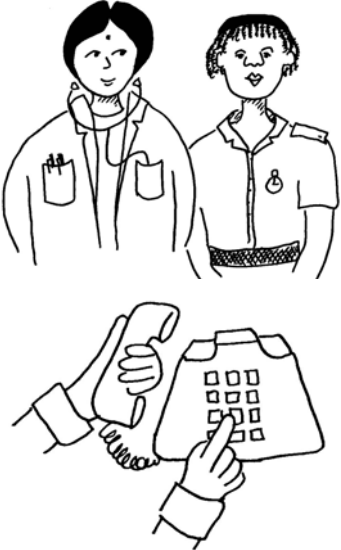
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Some of the pictures are from the CHANGE Health Picture Bank, CHANGE, Units 19/20, Unity Business Centre, 26 Roundhay Road, Leeds, LS7 1AB.

	<p>For example, it may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• help you control your temper• help you stop hurting yourself• help you stop breaking things.
   	<p>What are the side effects of lithium?</p> <p>Side effects are effects medicine can have on your body that are not wanted.</p> <p>Not everyone taking a medicine will get side effects.</p> <p>Many side effects will go away with time.</p> <p>Many side effects are rare.</p> <p>You might want to talk to your doctor if you have any side effects.</p> <p>For example, these are some side effects of lithium...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• feeling sleepy or sluggish• feeling sick or being sick• a dry mouth or feeling very thirsty• needing the toilet a lot• fine shaking in the hands• putting on weight• swollen ankles or feet• headache.

 	<p>Some side effects are more serious.</p> <p>You should tell someone straight away if...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• you feel faint or dizzy• you have strong twitches especially in your legs or jaw• you feel confused• you have slurred speech• you feel unsteady on your feet or feel clumsy• you have a rash or blotches on your skin.
  	<h3>How and when do I take lithium?</h3> <p>The label on your lithium packet should tell you when to take your medicine.</p> <p>The label should tell you how much medicine you should take.</p> <p>You should follow these instructions carefully.</p> <p>You should swallow your tablet with water...</p> <p>Or...</p> <p>Measure and swallow your liquid.</p> <p>If you forget to take your medicine, tell someone straight away.</p> <p>You should ask your pharmacist if you can crush your medicine or if it can be mixed with a drink.</p>

	<p>You should carry on taking your medicine even if you feel better unless your doctor asks you to stop.</p> <p>You should talk to your doctor before you stop taking your medicine.</p>
	<p>What do I need to know about lithium?</p> <p>Drinking alcohol whilst taking lithium could make you feel drowsy.</p> <p>Some medicines do not work well together.</p> <p>You should tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking.</p>
	<p>Where can I get more information?</p> <p>This leaflet does not tell you everything about lithium.</p> <p>If you want more information about lithium...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• you can ask your pharmacist, doctor or nurse for more information• you can ask your carer to get more information• you can phone NHS Direct on 0845 4647.• you can phone a medicine information helpline on 020 3228 2999.

G. Unwin and S. Deb from the University of Birmingham created this leaflet with help from People First (Staffs) and Mencap. The project was funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

It can be downloaded from www.ld-medication.bham.ac.uk.

The information in this leaflet came from...

- the British National Formulary (www.bnf.org)
- the United Kingdom Psychiatric Pharmacy Group Patient Advisory Leaflets (www.ukppg.org.uk/ukppg-pals.html)
- Miriam Wilcher's Handbook for Carers of People with Learning Disabilities.

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