



Neurology/NeuroSurgery

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Felbamate

Felbamate is a unique dicarbamate anticonvulsant. Felbamate's anticonvulsant activity is thought to be due to its ability to reduce excitatory neurotransmission; its exact mechanism is unknown. Felbamate is currently utilized as a 2nd or 3rd line agent in addition to other anticonvulsants for its combined anticonvulsant effects without sedation. Metabolism by the liver into inactive metabolites accounts for 20% of the removal of Felbamate. Unmetabolized and metabolized Felbamate is excreted in the urine.

The use of Felbamate in combination with other anticonvulsants will affect the bioavailability of all agents. Felbamate can induce liver enzymes enhancing the removal of itself and other anticonvulsants, decreasing serum concentrations.

Adverse effects include liver enzyme induction, tremors, limb rigidity, salivation, restlessness, and agitation at higher doses. Bone-marrow suppression and hepatotoxicity have been reported rarely. Felbamate should not be used in animals with blood dyscrasia or hepatic dysfunction. The use in pregnant and lactating animals should be discouraged.