

1-117 Levels of Na Valporate

TIPS Question:

Does the therapeutic level 347-693 vary for Valporic acid to impact on behaviour?

Response:

Good question. The therapeutic range has been established for sodium valproate in terms of its effect and benefit on epilepsy. It has not been definitively established for behaviour and dementia. However, we use it as a rough guide. As a guide, one of the critical factors is to put the level more in the context of the benefits and risks, i.e. behavioural response balanced with side effects. I have seen a number of situations where the therapeutic level has been low yet the individual has responded quite well to the lower dose titration up to the higher range in these situations is not necessary.

Please note: TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.