

How do we then describe women and men that being fighting something they never saw coming?

At first the theatre was my escape. It was a place where I could step out of my own world for a few hours and into someone else's. It was the best therapy. Until I was cast in a role I'd play for the rest of my life.

We ourselves that hold all the weight. We are some of the smallest, most delicate warriors.

I was 19 when my seizures started. I began waking up at the bottom of steps, not knowing how I got there. I was hospitalized often. After trying countless medications, my seizures continued. They had such an impact on every aspect of my life. It was becoming more and more obvious that I may have to choose to let some things go. It was a depressing thought. I was losing everything beautiful in my life.

Our beauty is found in the simplicity of living, not showing pain to our family; the simple act of waking up each day.

At a low point in my medical journey, a friend challenged me to name three good things in my life. I couldn't even think of one. But she pushed me over and over until I could do it. Choosing that perspective helped me so much now that I do it every day.

Our strength is not normal to many. Our strength is not possible to most. Our strength is not held in a fist. Our strength is a heartbeat. And a purpose.

Sometimes, giving up can be easier than finding a medication that works for you. But don't give up. Don't. When I started XCOPRI, I was having multiple seizures daily. And now, for the first time in my life, I've only had one seizure in three months. I celebrate that.

We were not born sick. We were born strong. We wake up knowing the definition of heavy. We take our medicines. We face whatever comes next. We hold hands. We carry. We push onward. This is our fight.

There are hard moments. And looking back, it's not something I could have gone through without my friends and family. I've discovered that I'm stronger than I thought I was, and I celebrate that, too.

We have only today. We have accepted that challenge with no preparations, we meet our leader when we see ourselves in the mirror. Three good things: Family and friends, reduced seizures, and being on this stage, sharing this story with you.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION AND INDICATION FOR XCOPRI® (cenobamate tablets) CV

DO NOT TAKE XCOPRI IF YOU:

- Are allergic to cenobamate or any of the other ingredients in XCOPRI.
- Have a genetic problem (called Familial Short QT syndrome) that affects the electrical system of the heart.

XCOPRI CAN CAUSE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, INCLUDING:

Allergic reactions: XCOPRI can cause serious skin rash or other serious allergic reactions which may affect organs and other parts of your body like the liver or blood cells. You may or may not have a rash with these types of reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away and go to the nearest emergency room if you have any of the following: swelling of your face, eyes, lips, or tongue, trouble swallowing or breathing, a skin rash, hives, fever, swollen glands, or sore throat that does not go away or comes and goes, painful sores in the mouth or around your eyes, yellowing of your skin or eyes, unusual bruising or bleeding, severe fatigue or weakness, severe muscle pain, frequent infections, or infections that do not go away. **Take XCOPRI exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. It is very important to increase your dose of XCOPRI slowly, as instructed by your healthcare provider.**

QT shortening: XCOPRI may cause problems with the electrical system of the heart (QT shortening). Call your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of QT shortening including fast heartbeat (heart palpitations) that last a long time or fainting.

Suicidal behavior and ideation: Antiepileptic drugs, including XCOPRI, may cause suicidal thoughts or actions in a very small number of people, about 1 in 500. Call your health care provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms, especially if they are new, worse, or worry you: thoughts about suicide or dying; attempting to commit suicide; new or worse depression, anxiety, or irritability; feeling agitated or restless; panic attacks; trouble sleeping (insomnia); acting aggressive; being angry or violent; acting on dangerous impulses; an extreme increase in activity and talking (mania); or other unusual changes in behavior or mood.

Nervous system problems: XCOPRI may cause problems that affect your nervous system. Symptoms of nervous system problems include: dizziness, trouble walking or with coordination, feeling sleepy and tired, trouble concentrating, remembering, and thinking clearly, and vision problems. **Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities until you know how XCOPRI affects you.**

Do not drink alcohol or take other medicines that can make you sleepy or dizzy while taking XCOPRI without first talking to your healthcare provider.

DISCONTINUATION:

Do not stop taking XCOPRI without first talking to your healthcare provider. Stopping XCOPRI suddenly can cause serious problems. Stopping seizure medicine suddenly in a patient who has epilepsy can cause seizures that will not stop (status epilepticus).

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

XCOPRI may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how XCOPRI works. **Do not start or stop other medicines without talking to your healthcare provider.** Tell healthcare providers about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:

XCOPRI may cause your birth control medicine to be less effective. **Talk to your health care provider about the best birth control method to use.**

Talk to your health care provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if XCOPRI will harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant while taking XCOPRI. You and your healthcare provider will decide if you should take XCOPRI while you are pregnant. If you become pregnant while taking XCOPRI, talk to your healthcare provider about registering with the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) Pregnancy Registry. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the safety of antiepileptic medicine during pregnancy. You can enroll in this registry by calling 1-888-233-2334 or go to www.aedpregnancyregistry.org.

Talk to your health care provider if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if XCOPRI passes into breastmilk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby while taking XCOPRI.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:

The most common side effects in patients taking XCOPRI include dizziness, sleepiness, headache, double vision, and feeling tired.

These are not all the possible side effects of XCOPRI. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. **Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088** or at www.fda.gov/medwatch.

DRUG ABUSE:

XCOPRI is a federally controlled substance (CV) because it can be abused or lead to dependence. Keep XCOPRI in a safe place to prevent misuse and abuse. Selling or giving away XCOPRI may harm others and is against the law.

INDICATION:

XCOPRI is a prescription medicine used to treat partial-onset seizures in adults 18 years of age and older.

It is not known if XCOPRI is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

Please see additional patient information in the Medication Guide. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider

about your condition or your treatment.

Please see [Medication Guide](#) and full [Prescribing Information](#).

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