

ESLICARBAZEPINE



Other names

Zebinix

Drug category

Sodium channel blocker

Uses

Eslicarbazepine is derived from an older drug, carbamazepine, and used for focal seizures.

Available forms

Tablet

Some potential side-effects (inform your doctor if you think you have a serious side-effect)

Nausea, dizziness, low blood sodium level, headaches, drowsiness, unsteadiness

Rare: Pancreatitis, severe blistering rash, reduced immunity

Not to be used if:

Han Chinese/Thai origin (unless HLA-B*1502 allele negative)

Irregular heart rhythm (heart block)

Severe liver or kidney disease

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Eslicarbazepine makes hormone-based contraception less likely to work and an alternative method should be used after medical advice. Should avoid in pregnancy as likely increased risk of birth defects. Avoid during breastfeeding.

Interactions with other drugs

Phenytoin and carbamazepine decreases level by 33%. Eslicarbazepine increases phenytoin level

Monitoring

Consider blood tests every 12 months for full blood count, sodium, kidney and liver function.

How to use it

Day	Evening dose
Start date	400mg
2 weeks later	800mg
After 2 weeks	Continue same dose

If 800mg once daily does not help, you are under 65 years old and you have no side-effects, then it can be increased to a higher dose, and this can be done by adding 400mg every 2 weeks but the maximum dose should be no more than 1200mg in a day. If reducing it, do this in steps of 400mg every week until stopped.

Stop and seek medical attention if fever, bruising, bleeding or a rash occur on using the drug.

This information is for guidance only. Always read the medicine information leaflet with any new medicine for full details.