

OXCARBAZEPINE



Other names

Trileptal

Drug category

Sodium channel blocker

Uses

Oxcarbazepine is used for epilepsy and facial pain.

Available forms

Tablet (150/300/600 mg), liquid (60 mg/ml); If switching quickly then 1.5x carbamazepine dose)

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

Nausea, abdominal pain, unsteadiness, low blood sodium level, weakness, drowsiness

Rare: Liver disease, severe blistering rash, reduced immunity

May worsen absence and myoclonic seizures

Not to be used if:

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

Irregular heart rhythm

Porphyria, Previous bone marrow suppression

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Oxcarbazepine 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 (3%). Avoid during breastfeeding.

Interactions with other drugs

Many interactions including effects on warfarin, new anticoagulants and other anti-epileptic drugs

Monitoring

Blood tests every 3-12 months for full blood count, sodium, kidney and liver function. Consider vit D.

How to use it

Day	Morning dose	Evening dose
Start date	Nil	300mg
2 weeks later	300mg	300mg
4 weeks later	300mg	600mg
6 weeks later	600mg	600mg
After 6 weeks	Continue same dose	Continue same dose

If 600mg twice daily does not help and you have no side-effects, then it can be increased to a higher dose, and this can be done by adding 300mg every 2 weeks but the maximum dose should be no more than 2400mg in a day (1200mg twice a day). If reducing it, do this in steps of 300mg 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.