
Department of Neurosciences

Oxcarbazepine drug information

Oxcarbazepine can be used as a single drug or part of a combination of other antiepileptic drugs. It is available in 150mg, 300mg and 600mg tablets. It is also available in form of a suspension containing 300mg/ml.

Drug brand names

- Oxcarbazepine
- Trileptal

Uses

Oxcarbazepine is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy. It is also used to treat certain types of pain.

Side effects

Oxcarbazepine is generally well tolerated. Dose-related side effects become more likely the higher the dose of medication and improve if the dose is reduced again. They sometimes occur temporarily when the medication is started or as the dose is increased.

- Common side effects are nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhoea and abdominal pain.
- Some patients may experience sleepiness, unsteadiness of walking, dizziness and double vision. They often settle after a few weeks on medication.
- About one in twenty patients will experience an allergic rash, a little like sunburn or milder skin irritation. You should consult your doctor or epilepsy specialist nurse if this happens. This may mean that the tablet has to be stopped.
- Medically serious side effects are very rare but may affect the blood or the liver. Blood tests will be performed where appropriate.

In the event of any of these side effects, contact the epilepsy nurse (contact details are at the end of the leaflet), or your GP.

Contraception

Oxcarbazepine reduces the amount of the oral contraceptive pill in your body so that a higher dose pill is required. Even then, contraception may be slightly less effective, especially if there is breakthrough bleeding between periods. You should consider also using a barrier method such as condoms until this problem is rectified. Oxcarbazepine

does not affect the three month contraceptive injections and the hormone coil in the same way.

Pregnancy

If you are taking any anti-epileptic drug, you should ask to see your specialist and discuss the best preparations and doses before you conceive in order to reduce the risk of malformations to your baby. Once you are already pregnant it is too late to make these changes. The risks to your baby from Oxcarbazepine are about one in 100 of spina bifida and this may be reduced by taking 5mg folic acid supplements daily from at least eight weeks prior to conception until at least 13 weeks of pregnancy. Other risks include delay in mental development of your baby.

Drug interactions

Ordinary medications such as paracetamol and aspirin can be given with Oxcarbazepine. For any other medication you are prescribed or buy over the counter, always check with your doctor or pharmacist if there are any interactions with these and Oxcarbazepine.

Other useful information

- Keep a record of your seizures when you start any new medication. This will help to determine future drug dosages.
- Do not stop taking your medication suddenly and without consultation with your doctor.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember but do not take two doses at the same time or within six hours of each other

Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Epilepsy Nurse Specialist on 01223 217992.

The information on this leaflet is not exhaustive. Please refer to the patient information leaflet prepared by the manufacturer of your drug which can be found in the medicine packaging.



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Arabic

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال بمعلومات المريض على الرقم: 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese

如您需以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasinlar: 01223 216032 veya patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کرنے کی درخواست کریں: 01223 216032 یا patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পেতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

Document history

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