

About your medication

C A R B A M A Z E P I N E

(Tegretol, Teril, Carbamazepine
Sandoz
100mg, 200mg tablets
200mg CR, 400mg CR tablets,
100mg/5mL suspension)

Other brands may be available

The brand you have been given is:

WHAT IS CARBAMAZEPINE?

Carbamazepine is from a group of medications called anti-epileptics or anti-convulsants. It is only available with a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

It is used to help control mood swings and also for controlling some types of seizures (fits) in epilepsy. It has also been used for other less common conditions as determined by your doctor prescribing e.g. pain due to trigeminal neuralgia. It may be used alone or in combination with other medicines to treat your condition.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and not given to other people.

Carbamazepine may be taken during or after a meal to decrease the chance of stomach upsets.

Swallow the tablets with a full glass of water. If your child take the controlled release tablets, do not crush or chew them. They may, however, be broken in half. If using the liquid shake the bottle well before each dose is measured and use a medicine measure, dropper or syringe to ensure the right amount is given.

It is important that the medication be taken exactly as the doctor recommends, to obtain the best results and to lessen any possible side effects.

Your child's doctor may periodically require your child to have regular blood tests to measure the blood level of the medication. This is done to achieve the best dosage and to help prevent side effects.

WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of the medication it can be taken as soon as you remember. Do not take the missed dose if it is close to the next one; just take the next dose as normal. Do not double up on any doses. If you miss more than one dose a day call your doctor. Do not double-up on any doses.

STORING THE MEDICINE

It is important to keep carbamazepine locked away out of the reach of children. Do not keep the tablets or solution in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Carbamazepine can interact with a number of other medications so it is important to advise your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other prescription or over-the-counter medications purchased from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop including "cold and flu" preparations and some antibiotics.

Care must be taken when carbamazepine is used with other medications that cause any drowsiness, such as antihistamines, sedatives, tranquillisers and other anti-epileptics. Do not consume large quantities of grapefruit juice.

Talk to your child's doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Carbamazepine is available as “normal” tablets, controlled release (CR) tablets or in liquid form. Each dosage form is absorbed differently, so it is very important that your child continues to take the same dosage form.
- Some people taking carbamazepine are more sensitive to sunlight than they are normally. Protect skin from sunlight using at least SPF 15 sunscreen and protective clothing.
- Do not suddenly stop taking this medicine without first checking with your doctor. This drug should be gradually withdrawn under supervision by your doctor.
- Carbamazepine can affect how alert your child is. Your child should avoid activities like riding bikes or climbing trees until you know how they are affected.
- It is important to measure and give the dose accurately, as there is little difference between a safe dose and an overdose. In the event of poisoning contact the Poisons Information Line on 13 11 26.
- Tell your doctor if you are of Asian descent, particularly if you are Chinese. Your doctor may want to do a genetic test before you take Carbamazepine for the first time.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

- Side effects can occur while taking carbamazepine. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- drowsiness, dizziness or clumsiness
- constipation or diarrhoea
- nausea or upset stomach
- headache

More Serious (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- blurred vision, jerky movements of the eyes
- behavioural changes: confusion or agitation
- slurred speech
- severe diarrhoea or vomiting
- increased seizure activity

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- Skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT



***Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard on 03 9345 5522
OR***

***Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26 (24 hour service)***

This leaflet answers some common questions about your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – OCTOBER 2010.
