

oxcarbazepine

Pronunciation: ox kar BAY zeh peen

Brand: Trileptal

What is the most important information I should know about this drug?



• Do not stop taking your medication even if you feel better. It is important to continue taking oxcarbazepine to prevent your seizures from recurring.



Oxcarbazepine may decrease the effectiveness of birth control pills. Use a second method of birth control while taking oxcarbazepine to ensure that you are protected from unintended pregnancy.



Do not drink alcohol while taking this medication. Alcohol can cause deep sedation or sleepiness. It may also increase the risk of seizures.



Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. Oxcarbazepine may cause dizziness or drowsiness. If you experience dizziness or drowsiness, avoid these activities.

What is oxcarbazepine?

Oxcarbazepine is a drug that affects your nerves and brain. It works by decreasing impulses in nerves that cause seizures.

Oxcarbazepine is used alone and with other drugs to treat seizures.

Oxcarbazepine may also be used for purposes other than those listed in this medication guide.

Who should not take oxcarbazepine?



Do not take oxcarbazepine without first talking to your doctor if you have ever had an allergic reaction to carbamazepine (Tegretol, others). You may have an allergic reaction to oxcarbazepine.

- Before taking this medication, tell your doctor if you have
- kidney disease, or
- liver disease.

You may not be able to take oxcarbazepine, or you may require a lower dose or special monitoring during treatment if you have any of the conditions listed above.



Oxcarbazepine is in the FDA category C. This means that it is not known whether oxcarbazepine will harm an unborn baby. **Do not** take this medication without first talking to your doctor if you are pregnant.



Oxcarbazepine passes into breast milk and may harm a nursing infant. **Do not** take this medication without first talking to your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

If you are over 60 years of age, you may be more likely to experience side effects from oxcarbazepine. Your doctor may prescribe a lower dose or special monitoring during treatment.



Oxcarbazepine is not approved for use by children younger than 4 years of age.

How should I take oxcarbazepine?

Take oxcarbazepine exactly as directed by your doctor. If you do not understand these instructions, ask your pharmacist, nurse, or doctor to explain them to you.

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Take each dose with a full glass of water.

Oxcarbazepine can be taken with or without food.

Your doctor probably will require you to undergo blood tests during your therapy. It is important for your doctor to know how much oxcarbazepine is in your blood and how well your liver is working.

Carry or wear a medical identification tag to let others know that you are taking this medicine in the case of an emergency.



Do not stop taking your medication even if you feel better. It is important to continue taking oxcarbazepine to prevent your seizures from recurring.



Store oxcarbazepine at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take only your next regularly scheduled dose. **Do not** take a double dose of this medication.

What happens if I overdose?



Seek emergency medical treatment.

Symptoms of an oxcarbazepine overdose are not known.

What should I avoid while taking oxcarbazepine?



Do not drink alcohol while taking this medication. Alcohol can cause deep sedation or sleepiness. It may also increase the risk of seizures.



Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. Oxcarbazepine may cause dizziness or drowsiness. If you experience dizziness or drowsiness, avoid these activities.

What are the possible side effects of oxcarbazepine?

If you experience any of the following serious side effects, seek emergency medical attention or consult your doctor immediately:

- an allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of your throat; swelling of your lips, tongue, or face; or hives);
- symptoms of low blood sodium (nausea, general discomfort, headache, extreme drowsiness, or confusion);
- central nervous system effects (difficulty with concentration, speech, or language; excessive sleepiness or fatigue; a loss of coordination or trouble walking); or
- double vision, nystagmus (back-and-forth movements of the eyes), blurred vision, or other visual disturbances.

Other, less serious side effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take oxcarbazepine and talk to your doctor if you experience

- headache;
- mild sleepiness or fatigue;
- nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain;
- tremor;
- dizziness;
- rash;
- diarrhea, constipation, or decreased appetite;
- weight gain; or
- dry mouth.

Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

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What other drugs will affect oxcarbazepine?

Before taking oxcarbazepine, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following drugs:

- carbamazepine (Tegretol, Epitol, Carbatrol, others);
- phenobarbital (Solfoton, Luminal, others);
- phenytoin (Dilantin, others);
- valproic acid (Depakene, Depacon, others);
- lamotrigine (Lamictal);
- felodipine (Plendil); or
- verapamil (Verelan, Calan, Isoptin, Covera-HS, others).

You may not be able to take oxcarbazepine, or you may require a dosage adjustment or special monitoring during treatment if you are taking any of the medicines listed above.



Oxcarbazepine may decrease the effectiveness of birth control pills. Use a second method of birth control while taking oxcarbazepine to ensure that you are protected from unintended pregnancy.

Drugs other than those listed here may also interact with oxcarbazepine or affect your condition. Talk to your doctor and pharmacist before taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicines.

Where can I get more information?

Your pharmacist has additional information about oxcarbazepine written for health professionals that you may read.

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

The information in this leaflet is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions, or adverse effects. If you have questions about the drugs you are taking, check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

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