

Children's medication information leaflet

CARBAMAZEPINE

Other names: Tegretol®, Tegretol CR®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

The name of your child's medication is: carbamazepine

Available preparations: Tablet 200mg, 400mg
Controlled Release (CR) Tablet 200mg, 400mg
Suspension 100mg/5mL

Why is your child taking this medication?

Carbamazepine is used in epilepsy to control and prevent seizures (fits).

When to give this medicine to your child

- Give exactly as directed by your doctor or pharmacist, never give more than the prescribed dose.
- Give carbamazepine at the same time(s) every day. Marking a calendar may be a helpful reminder.
- Make sure carbamazepine is taken after food. This will reduce any stomach upset.
- If giving your child carbamazepine suspension, shake the bottle well before carefully measuring each dose accurately with an oral syringe.
- If your child is taking controlled release tablets (Tegretol CR), the tablets can be halved before swallowing but should not be crushed or chewed.
- Ensure you always have a supply of medicine on hand.

NOTE:

- Carbamazepine is commenced at a low dose and this is slowly increased over a period of weeks.
- Blood tests may be needed to help get to the desired dose. On the day of your child's blood test, do not give carbamazepine until after the blood test is done.

DO NOT STOP carbamazepine without your doctor's permission.

What should you do if your child misses a dose

Give the dose as soon as you remember except when it is close to the time for the next dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to the regular dosing schedule. You should not give two doses at the same time.

What should you do if your child vomits after a dose

If the vomiting occurs less than 15 minutes after the medicine is given, give the entire dose again. If more than 15 minutes have passed, do not give it again until the next scheduled dose.

Side effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on the body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor or speak to your pharmacist **immediately** if your child has any of these side effects:

- unexplained fever, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- yellowing of the skin or of the eyes
- unsteadiness
- allergic skin rash (red and itchy)
- severe vomiting

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child has these side effects:

- drowsiness
- dizziness
- blurred vision
- headache
- dry mouth
- nausea

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

Other Medicines

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving your child any other medicines including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Carbamazepine may interact with a large number of medicines. This means that certain medicines taken at the same time may affect how well carbamazepine controls your child's epilepsy. It is very important that you check with your doctor or pharmacist when a new medication is started or before taking over-the-counter medicines or medicines bought from supermarkets.

For example, the antibiotic erythromycin can increase the effect of carbamazepine to a toxic blood level if a reduction in dose is not anticipated. Therefore, it is essential that you discuss with your doctor any additions or changes to your child's current medication regime.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.