

# Oxcarbazepine

## Usage

Oxcarbazepine is a newer anti-convulsant medication used to control seizures. It is used in addition to other medication to treat focal and generalised seizures.

Oxcarbazepine may make some types of seizures (absence or myoclonic seizures) worse. Contact your doctor if you think your child's seizures have worsened after starting Oxcarbazepine.

It must be prescribed by a doctor. You should never give your child anyone else's medications.

## Side effects

**All medications have side effects. Not everyone will experience side effects. Below are some of the possible side effects your child may experience:**

- Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain
- Agitation
- Dizziness
- Sleepiness
- Shaking
- Headache
  
- **Rash** - If your child develops a rash after starting Oxcarbazepine, there are important features to look for such as: red eyes, red mouth or blisters around the mouth, nose and lips. If your child develops a rash or any of these signs you should contact your doctor immediately or go to the nearest Emergency Department. The medication may need to be stopped immediately under medical supervision.

## **Other possible side effects**

- Dry mouth
- Unsteadiness
- Disturbed sleep
- Problems concentrating

## Can other medications be given with Oxcarbazepine?

Your doctor will check and make sure that other drugs your child is taking are compatible with Oxcarbazepine.

Oxcarbazepine may alter the way the liver processes other medications, either increasing or decreasing their level. Some medications that may be affected include Phenytoin, Diazepam and the oral contraceptive pill.

## Epilepsy and Pregnancy

There is very limited data on the safety of Oxcarbazepine during pregnancy at the present time. For up to date information on any issues related to child bearing please refer to the PENNSW website: [www.pennsw.com.au](http://www.pennsw.com.au)

The oral contraceptive pill may not work properly in people taking Oxcarbazepine.

## What else do I need to know?

If you have any questions please ask your doctor.

## Monitoring and medication levels

Some doctors may want to monitor the level of sodium in the blood and the full blood count of children taking Oxcarbazepine.