

Medication Information

Carbamazepine

(Kar – ba – maz – e – peen)

Other names for this medication

Tegretol®

There are many other names for this medication.

How this medication is used

This medication is used to control and prevent seizures. It may be used for some types of pain. It can also be used to improve or balance mood.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your health care provider. It must be taken regularly, even if you feel well. Do not stop taking this medication without checking with your health care provider first.

Talk to your health care provider if you may be pregnant or are planning to get pregnant.

This medication can interact with many other medications. Check with your health care provider or pharmacist each time you start taking a new medication along with Carbamazepine.

When it is time to stop taking this medication, your health care provider may slowly decrease the amount of medication.

Take this medication with food if it upsets your stomach.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

How to take this medication (continued)

Grapefruit can effect the way this medication works. If you eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice, limit the amount you have. You may eat 1 grapefruit or drink 125 mL (4 ounces) 1 to 2 times a week.

Long acting tablets: Swallow whole with food. Do not crush, chew or suck tablets.

Chewable tablets: These tablets can be crushed, chewed or swallowed whole. Take with food.

While taking this medication you may notice

- blurred or double vision
- nausea
- dry mouth
- a change in coordination
- dizziness
- drowsiness
- your skin is sensitive to sun

This medication can make you drowsy. Until you know how this medication affects you, do not drive or operate machinery. To avoid feeling dizzy, get up slowly when you have been sitting or lying down. If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you are no longer dizzy, then get up slowly.

This medication increases the effects of alcohol, making you more sleepy, dizzy and lightheaded. Do not drink alcohol such as wine, beer and liquor while on this medication.

If your skin becomes more sensitive to sunlight, avoid direct sunlight. While in the sun wear sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and clothing to cover your skin.

To help dry mouth, try sucking sugar-free candy or chewing sugar-free gum. Sucking on ice chips also helps if you are not on a limited fluid diet. Good care of your teeth is very important at this time.

Contact your health care provider if you notice

- confusion
- skin rash
- mood changes unusual for you
- slurred speech
- you feel tired or drowsy all the time
- dark urine
- you have more seizures
- signs of infection such as sore throat, fever, chills
- problems passing urine
- signs of bleeding such as easy bruising, nosebleeds, black or bloody stools
- yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes