

REVIEWED

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Micromedex Consumer Medication Information.

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Carbamazepine (By mouth)

kar-ba-MAZ-e-peen

Treats [seizures](#), [nerve pain](#), or [bipolar disorder](#).

Drug classes

Anticonvulsant, Neuropathic Pain Agent ([About this - PubMed Health](#))

Uses

Uses of This Medicine

[Carbamazepine](#) is used to treat certain types of [seizures](#) ([epilepsy](#)). It is also used to relieve pain due to trigeminal neuralgia ([tic douloureux](#)) and in the [treatment](#) of [bipolar disorder](#) (manic-[depressive illness](#)). Carbamazepine works in the [brain](#) and [nervous system](#) to control seizures, pain, and bipolar disorder. This medicine is an anticonvulsant.

This medicine is available only with your doctor's prescription.

Other uses (PubMed Health)

How To Use

Long Acting Capsule, Liquid, Tablet, Chewable Tablet, Long Acting Tablet

Take your medicine as directed. Your dose may need to be changed several times to find what works best for you. This medicine may be used alone or together with other [seizure](#) medicines.

Extended-release capsule:

- Swallow the capsule whole. Do not break, crush, or chew it.
- You may open the capsule and pour the medicine into a small amount of soft food such as pudding, yogurt, or applesauce. Stir this mixture well and swallow it without [chewing](#).

Chewable tablet:

- It is best to take this medicine with food or milk.
- Chew the tablet well before [swallowing](#) it.

Liquid:

- It is best to take this medicine with food or milk.
- Measure the [oral](#) liquid medicine with a marked measuring spoon, oral syringe, or medicine cup. Shake the bottle well just before each use.
- Do not take this medicine at the same time as other [oral](#) liquid medicines.

Tablet:

- It is best to take this medicine with food or milk.
- Swallow the tablet whole. Do not crush, break, or chew it.
- Do not use an extended-release tablet that is cracked or chipped.

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This medicine should come with a Medication Guide. Ask your pharmacist for a copy if you do not have one.

Missed dose: Take a dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then and take a regular dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.

Drugs and Foods to Avoid

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and herbal products.

Do not use this medicine together with [nefazodone](#), [delavirdine](#), or certain other medicines for HIV or AIDS (including [efavirenz](#), [etravirine](#)). Do not use this medicine and an MAO [inhibitor](#) (MAOI) within 14 days of each other.

The list below includes some of the most commonly used medicines that can interact with [carbamazepine](#). There are many other drugs not listed. Make sure your doctor knows the names of **all** the medicines you use. Tell your doctor if you are using any of the following:

- [Alprazolam](#), [aprepitant](#), [aripiprazole](#), [buspirone](#), [chloroquine](#), [citalopram](#), [clarithromycin](#), [clomipramine](#), [clonazepam](#), [clozapine](#), [cyclophosphamide](#), [cyclosporine](#), [diltiazem](#), [doxorubicin](#), [erythromycin](#), [everolimus](#), [felodipine](#), [fluoxetine](#), [imatinib](#), [isoniazid](#), [lamotrigine](#), [lapatinib](#), [lithium](#), [loxapine](#), [mefloquine](#), [methadone](#), [phenytoin](#), [praziquantel](#), [primidone](#), [propoxyphene](#), [quetiapine](#), [quinine](#), [sirolimus](#), [tacrolimus](#), [temsirolimus](#), [tramadol](#), [trazodone](#), [triazolam](#), [valproate](#), [verapamil](#), or [zileuton](#)
- HIV [protease inhibitor](#) (including [atazanavir](#), [darunavir](#), [fosamprenavir](#), [indinavir](#), [lopinavir](#), [ritonavir](#), [saquinavir](#))
- Medicine to treat [fungal infection](#) (including [fluconazole](#), [itraconazole](#), [ketoconazole](#), [voriconazole](#))
- Steroid (including [dexamethasone](#), [prednisolone](#), [prednisone](#))

Birth control pills, [shots](#), and other [hormonal](#) birth control methods may not work as well while you use this medicine. You may want to use a second form of birth control.

Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while you are using this medicine.

Tell your doctor if you use anything else that makes you sleepy. Some examples are allergy medicine, narcotic pain medicine, and alcohol.

When Not To Use

This medicine is not right for everyone. Do not use it if you had an allergic reaction to [carbamazepine](#) or a tricyclic antidepressant or if you are pregnant.

Warnings

It is not safe to take this medicine during [pregnancy](#). It could harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding, or if you have [kidney disease](#), [liver disease](#), [glaucoma](#), [heart disease](#), heart rhythm problems, [porphyria](#), an intolerance to [fructose](#), or a history of [bone marrow depression](#), suicidal thoughts, or depression. Tell your doctor if you had an allergic reaction to any other medicine (especially [seizure](#) medicines).

Tell your doctor if you have Asian ancestry. Your doctor may test you for serious [skin](#) reactions before prescribing this medicine.

This medicine may cause the following problems:

- Serious [skin](#) reactions
- [Aplastic anemia](#) or other [blood](#) problems
- Drug reaction with [eosinophilia](#) and systemic symptoms (DRESS), which may damage [organs](#) such as the [liver](#), [kidney](#), or [heart](#)

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- Suicidal thoughts or behavior
- Low sodium levels in the [blood](#)
- [Liver](#) damage

Do not stop using this medicine suddenly. Your doctor will need to slowly decrease your dose before you stop it completely.

Tell any doctor or dentist who treats you that you are using this medicine. This medicine may affect certain medical test results.

This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Do not drive or do anything else that could be dangerous until you know how this medicine affects you.

Your doctor will do [lab tests](#) at regular visits to check on the effects of this medicine. Keep all appointments. Your doctor may want to have your [eyes](#) checked by an [eye](#) doctor.

Keep all medicine out of the reach of children. Never share your medicine with anyone.

Possible side effects

Summary

[More details](#)

Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:

Allergic reaction: [itching](#) or [hives](#), swelling in your face or [hands](#), swelling or tingling in your [mouth](#) or [throat](#), [chest](#) tightness, trouble breathing

[Blistering](#), peeling, red [skin rash](#)

Blurred vision, changes in vision

Change in how much or how often you urinate

[Chest](#) pain, trouble breathing, cold sweats, bluish [skin](#)

Confusion, memory problems, unusual [tiredness](#), [muscle spasms](#) or weakness

Dark [urine](#) or pale stools, [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), [loss of appetite](#), [stomach](#) pain, yellow [skin](#) or [eyes](#)

Fast, slow, pounding, or uneven heartbeat

[Fever](#), chills, [cough](#), [sore throat](#), or sores in your [mouth](#)

Lightheadedness or [fainting](#)

Swollen, painful, or tender [lymph glands](#) in your [neck](#), armpit, or [groin](#)

Thoughts of hurting yourself or others, unusual thoughts or behavior

Unusual [bleeding](#), bruising, or weakness

If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:

[Anxiety](#), agitation, [depression](#), restlessness, or trouble sleeping

[Dizziness](#) or drowsiness

[Dry mouth](#)

Mild [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), [constipation](#)

If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

[More side effects of this drug](#)

Brand names include

Carbatrol, Epitol, Equetro

There may be other brand names for this medicine.

[More detailed version of this drug page](#)



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