

**Generic Name: Carbamazepine**

**Brand Name: Tegretol**

What Is It Used For?

- Decreasing seizure activity in various types of seizures; especially helpful for controlling partial seizures and secondary generalized seizures.
- Not effective for absence and myoclonic seizures since it may increase symptoms.

How Long Does The Medicine Take to Work?

- 3-5 days

What Are The Important Safety Concerns?

- When first starting this medicine, your child may be slightly drowsy and dizzy.
- Only adjust the dosage as recommended by your health care provider. They will usually increase this medication slowly to avoid side effects. Never increase the dosage more than **once per week** unless directed otherwise.
- Once you have started with one brand of the medication stay with it. Avoid switching between different brands.
- Check with your pharmacist before taking herbal medications and/or over-the-counter medications. They may have adverse effects if taken with anti-seizure medications.
- Do not stop taking this medication suddenly because this could result in seizures.
- It is important to keep a record of your child's seizures and side effects to determine how well they are responding to the medication.

Does My Child Need Bloodwork With This Medication?

- Routine blood work may be done to help determine the best dosage for your child, and also if he/she develops side effects to the medication.
- If your child is required to have blood work it must be done **BEFORE** they get the medication. This is called a trough level. This level usually falls between 17 and 51.
- A blood test may be done before starting this medication to check your child's liver function and blood counts. Your health care provider will decide if this is necessary.

What Are The Possible Side Effects?

- |                   |                 |                    |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| • Dizziness*      | • Drowsiness*   | • Loss of Appetite |
| • Blurred Vision* | • Nausea*       | • Dry Mouth        |
| • Confusion*      | • Unsteadiness* | • Fatigue          |
| • Constipation*   | • Vomiting      | • Abdominal Pain   |
| • Diarrhea        | • Rash          | • Double Vision    |

\*more common side effects

### How Do I Give The Medication?

- Give by mouth with food or milk to reduce stomach upset and/or to improve the taste if needed. Do not take with an antacid medication.
- Give your child the medication as close to the same time as possible each day and only the amount prescribed.
- If your child misses a dose, give the dose as soon as you remember or can. If the next dose of the medicine needs to be given in less than 4 hours, do **not** give the dose you forgot. Give the next dose a little earlier and then return to giving the medicine at the usual times after that.
- If your child vomits within 30 minutes of taking the medication, repeat the dose.
- If your child vomits after 30 minutes of taking the medication, do not repeat the dose.

### What Medications May Alter The Effectiveness Of This Drug?

- Phenobarbital, Phenytoin (Dilantin), Primidone, Oxcarbazepine and Ethosuximide can decrease the amount of Carbamazepine in your child's body.
- Valproic Acid (Depakene, Epival) - may increase the amount of time Carbamazepine is in your child's body.
- Carbamazepine may decrease the effects of these anti-seizure medications: Clobazam, Clonazepam, Ethosuximide, Primidone, Valproic acid, Lamotrigine, Topiramate

### When Do I Call My Health Care Provider?

Call your health care provider or go to your nearest emergency room if you are concerned about your child in any way. With Carbamazepine the following would be of concern.

- |                  |  |                             |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| • A rash         | • Mouth ulcers                               | • Unusual bruising          |
| • Abdominal pain | • Yellow skin or eyes                        | • Unusual bleeding          |
| • More seizures  | • Problems seeing (double vision) or talking | • Tiny purple spots on skin |

### What Are The Available Forms and Dosages?

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • 100 mg Chewable Tablet | • 200 mg Time Released Tablet |
| • 200 mg Chewable Tablet | • 400 mg Time Released Tablet |
| • 200 mg Tablet          | • 100 mg/5 ml Syrup           |
| • 400 mg Tablet          |                               |

It is important to keep a record of seizures and side effects to determine how well your child is responding to the medication. **Please bring these records to all clinic appointments**

**Always bring all your child's medications to every clinic appointment**