

Carbamazepine

Please prescribe carbamazepine CR as follows:

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|---------------|-------------------------|
| Week 1 | 200mg nocte |
| Week 2 & 3 | 200mg bd |
| Week 4 & 5 | 300mg mane, 200mg nocte |
| Week 6 onward | 300mg bd |

If seizures continue to occur on 300mg bd, then up to two further increments of 100mg can be made at intervals of not less than 3 weeks.

Note that the 200mg tablets of carbamazepine CR can be halved to give 100mg dose increments, without losing the CR effect.

The main dose limiting side effects of carbamazepine are diplopia, dizziness, and drowsiness. If these symptoms appear as the dose is being increased, then the dose should be decreased back down one step, and no further increases made for the time being.

The main idiosyncratic side effect is rash. If this occurs, then the drug should be withdrawn, over 1 week if the dose is 600mg or less. Please contact us if this occurs. There is no need for routine plasma level monitoring.

Note that carbamazepine is hepatic enzyme inducer, and reduces the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill.

Carbamazepine CR slow titration:

Please prescribe carbamazepine CR as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Week 1 | 100mg nocte |
| Week 2 & 3 | 100mg bd |
| Week 4 & 5 | 200mg mane, 100mg nocte |
| Week 6 onward | 200mg bd |

Note that the 200mg tablets of carbamazepine CR can be halved to give 100mg dose increments, without losing the CR effect. If seizures occur on 200mg bd, then up to two further increments of 100mg can be made at intervals of not less than 3 weeks.

The main dose related side effects of carbamazepine are dizziness, drowsiness and diplopia. If these symptoms appear as the dose is being increased, then the dose should be decreased back down one step, and no further increases made for the time being. There is no need for routine plasma level monitoring.

The main idiosyncratic side effect is rash. If this occurs, then the drug should be withdrawn, over 1 week if the dose is 600mg or less. Please contact us if this occurs.

Note that carbamazepine is hepatic enzyme inducer, and reduces the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill.

Carbamazepine withdrawal:

Withdraw by 100mg per week until the patient is off the drug.