

Eslicarbazepine titration

Please prescribe eslicarbazepine as follows:

Week 1	400mg once daily (1/2 800mg tablet)
Week 3	800mg once daily

ECG should be performed before starting the drug as 2nd and 3rd degree AV block are contraindications to therapy.

Full blood count, liver function, renal function should be checked before initiating therapy and 6 months or earlier if clinically indicated.

The main dose limiting side effects of eslicarbazepine are diplopia, dizziness, dry mouth 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 If this occurs, then the drug should be withdrawn. Please contact us if this occurs. There is no need for routine plasma level monitoring.

Eslicarbazepine inhibits CYP2C19 and can interact with medicinal products metabolised through this pathway. It can specifically reduce the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill and women of child bearing age must use adequate contraception during treatment and up to the end of the menstrual cycle after discontinuation.