

Oxcarbazepine

Please prescribe Oxcarbazepine as follows:

Week 1	300mg at night
Week 2 & 3	300mg morning and night
Week 4 onwards	300mg morning, 600mg at night

If seizures continue to occur on a total daily dose of 900mg, a further 300mg could be added to the dose.

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.

The main dose limiting side effects of oxcarbazepine 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 If this occurs, then the drug should be withdrawn, over 1 week if the dose is 600mg or less.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 oxcarbazepine is hepatic enzyme inducer, and reduces the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill.