Oxcarbazepine

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it’s used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US
Oxtellar XR; Trileptal

Brand Names: Canada
Trileptal

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to help control certain kinds of seizures.
- It may be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

- If your child has an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
- If your child is allergic to any drugs like this one or any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had, like rash; hives;
itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.

- If your child has liver disease.
- If your child has been tested and you know that your child has a gene type called HLA-B*1502.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child’s drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for your child to take this drug with all of his/her drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

- Tell all of your child’s health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child’s doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.

- Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness until you see how this drug affects your child. These are things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, toy cars, or motorized vehicles.

- Do not stop giving this drug to your child all of a sudden without calling the doctor. Your child may have a greater
risk of seizures. If your child needs to stop this drug, you will want to slowly stop it as told by the doctor.

- Have your child’s blood work checked often. Talk with your child’s doctor.

- This drug may affect how much of some other drugs are in the body. If your child is taking other drugs, talk with the doctor. Your child may need to have blood work checked more closely while taking this drug with other drugs.

- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.

- Talk with your child’s doctor before giving your child other drugs and natural products that may slow your child’s actions.

- A very bad and sometimes deadly effect has happened in people taking drugs for seizures like this drug. Call the doctor right away if your child has swollen glands; fever; rash; chest pain; not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is passed; or signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.

- The chance of very bad and sometimes deadly skin reactions is raised in people who have a certain gene called HLA-B*1502. This gene type is most common in Asian people. The doctor may check blood work before starting this drug. Talk with the doctor.
• A very bad reaction called angioedema has happened with this drug. Sometimes, this may be life-threatening. Signs may include swelling of the hands, face, lips, eyes, tongue, or throat; trouble breathing; trouble swallowing; or unusual hoarseness. Get medical help right away if your child has any of these signs.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

• Birth control pills and other hormone-based birth control may not work as well to prevent pregnancy. Be sure your child uses some other kind of birth control also, like a condom, when taking this drug.

If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:

• This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy. If your child is pregnant or gets pregnant while taking this drug, call the doctor right away.

• This drug may not work as well during pregnancy. Talk with the doctor.

• Tell the doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about any risks to the baby.

What are some side effects that I need to call my child’s doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child’s doctor or get medical help
right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of low sodium levels like headache, trouble focusing, memory problems, feeling confused, weakness, seizures, or change in balance.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Very bad muscle pain or weakness.
- Very bad joint pain or swelling.
- Feeling confused.
- Not able to focus.
- Change in eyesight.
- Change in speech.
- If seizures are new or worse after starting this drug.
- Not able to control eye movements.
- Memory problems or loss.
- Trouble walking.
- Change in balance.
• Patients who take this drug may be at a greater risk of having thoughts or actions of suicide. The risk may be greater in people who have had these thoughts or actions in the past. Call the doctor right away if signs like low mood (depression), nervousness, restlessness, grouchiness, panic attacks, or changes in mood or actions are new or worse. Call the doctor right away if any thoughts or actions of suicide occur.

• A very bad skin reaction (Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis) may happen. It can cause very bad health problems that may not go away, and sometimes death. Get medical help right away if your child has signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever); red or irritated eyes; or sores in the mouth, throat, nose, or eyes.

• Rarely, low blood cell counts have happened with this drug. Call your child’s doctor right away if your child has any unexplained bruising or bleeding; signs of infection like fever, chills, or sore throat; or feels very tired or weak.

**What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child’s doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

• Headache.

• Feeling tired or weak.
• Upset stomach or throwing up.
• Not hungry.
• Belly pain.
• Dizziness.
• Feeling sleepy.
• Shakiness.
• Feeling nervous and excitable.
• Trouble sleeping.
• Change in taste.
• Diarrhea.
• Constipation.
• Signs of a common cold.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child’s doctor. Call your child’s doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best given?
Give this drug as ordered by your child’s doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

Tablets and liquid (suspension):
• Give this drug with or without food.
Liquid (suspension):

- Shake well before use.
- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug.
- You may put this drug right in the mouth or you may mix it with a small glass of water.
- Clean the measuring device as you have been told. If you have questions about cleaning the measuring device, talk with the doctor or pharmacist.

Extended-release tablets:

- Give this drug on an empty stomach. Give at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.
- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child chew, break, or crush.

All products:

- To gain the most benefit, do not miss giving your child doses.
- Keep giving this drug to your child as you have been told by your child’s doctor or other health care provider, even if your child feels well.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
• If it is close to the time for your child’s next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child’s normal time.
• Do not give 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

All products:

• Store at room temperature.
• Keep lid tightly closed.
• Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
• Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
• Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

Extended-release tablets:

• Protect from light.

Liquid (suspension):

• Throw away any part not used 7 weeks after opening the bottle.
• Store in original container.

General drug facts
• If your child’s symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child’s doctor.

• Do not share your child’s drug with others and do not give anyone else’s drug to your child.

• Keep a list of all your child’s drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child’s doctor.

• Talk with your child’s doctor before giving your child any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.

• Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child’s doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

• If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

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