

USE WITH CAUTION.

Risks: Carbamazepine has been associated with hyponatraemia and the syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH), with an incidence ranging from 1.8% to 40%. Although most cases are mild, older adults are particularly vulnerable, especially when using diuretics or SSRIs. Rare but serious renal complications such as tubulointerstitial nephritis, acute renal failure, and albuminuria have also been reported.

Risk monitoring: Monitor serum sodium levels, renal function (urea, creatinine), and signs of fluid retention. Assess for confusion, fatigue, or seizures suggestive of hyponatraemia.

Dose adjustment: No initial dose adjustment is usually required in renal impairment, including haemodialysis. However, accumulation of the active metabolite 10,11-epoxide may occur in moderate to severe dysfunction — therapeutic drug monitoring is advisable.

Recommendation:

Use with caution in patients with renal impairment. Regularly check sodium and renal parameters, especially in older adults or those receiving interacting medications. Consider alternative drugs if significant hyponatraemia develops or renal function declines.