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2. Equetro

# Equetro

**Generic name:** [carbamazepine](#) (oral) [ *kar-ba-MAZ-e-peen* ]**Drug class:** [Dibenzazepine anticonvulsants](#)Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Sep 25, 2023.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#)

## What is Equetro?

Equetro is available as 100 mg, 200 mg, and 300 mg extended-release capsules of [carbamazepine](#). Carbamazepine is an anticonvulsant that works by decreasing nerve impulses that cause seizures and pain.

Equetro is used for the treatment of acute manic and mixed episodes associated with [bipolar disorder](#). A manic episode is a distinct period of abnormally and persistently elevated, expansive, or irritable mood. Exactly how it works to treat bipolar episodes is not known.

Equetro is also used to treat seizures and nerve pain such as [trigeminal neuralgia](#).

## Warnings

You should not take Equetro if you have a history of bone marrow suppression, or if you are allergic to it or to an antidepressant such as amitriptyline, desipramine, doxepin, imipramine, or nortriptyline.

TELL YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT ALL OTHER MEDICINES YOU USE. Some drugs can raise or lower your blood levels of carbamazepine, which may cause side effects or make this medicine less effective. Carbamazepine can also affect blood levels of certain other drugs, making them less effective or increasing side effects.

Equetro may cause serious blood problems or a life-threatening [skin rash](#) or allergic reaction. **Call your doctor if you have a fever, unusual weakness, bleeding, bruising, or a skin rash that causes blistering and peeling.**

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking seizure medicine. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor.

Do not stop taking Equetro without asking your doctor first, even if you feel fine.

**If you are pregnant, do not start or stop taking Equetro without your doctor's advice.**

## Before taking this medicine

You should not take Equetro if you have a history of bone marrow suppression, or if you are allergic to carbamazepine

or to an antidepressant such as [amitriptyline](#), [desipramine](#), [doxepin](#), [imipramine](#), or [nortriptyline](#).

Do not use carbamazepine if you have taken an MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days. A dangerous drug interaction could occur. MAO inhibitors include [furazolidone](#), [isocarboxazid](#), [linezolid](#), [phenelzine](#), [rasagiline](#), [selegiline](#), and [tranylcypromine](#).

Equetro may cause severe or life-threatening skin rash, and especially in people of Asian ancestry. Your doctor may recommend a blood test before you start the medication to determine your risk.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- heart problems;
- liver or kidney disease;
- [glaucoma](#);
- porphyria;
- [depression](#), [mood disorder](#); or
- suicidal thoughts or actions.

You may have thoughts about suicide while taking carbamazepine. Your doctor should check your progress at regular visits. Your family or other caregivers should also be alert to changes in your mood or symptoms.

Follow your doctor's instructions about taking seizure medication if you are pregnant. Do not **start** or **stop** taking Equetro without your doctor's advice. Carbamazepine may harm an unborn baby, but having a seizure during pregnancy could harm both mother and baby. The benefit of preventing seizures may outweigh any risks to the baby.

**Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.**

If you are pregnant, your name may be listed on a pregnancy registry to track the effects of carbamazepine on the baby.

Equetro can make [birth control pills](#) or implants less effective. Use a barrier form of [birth control](#) (such as a condom or diaphragm with spermicide) **to prevent pregnancy**.

You should not breastfeed while you are using Equetro.

 [Equetro pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I take Equetro?

Take Equetro exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Do not crush or chew an **extended-release Equetro capsule**.

However you may carefully open the extended-release capsule and sprinkle the medicine into a spoonful of pudding or applesauce to make swallowing easier. Swallow right away without chewing. Do not save the mixture for later use. Discard the empty capsule.

It may take up to 4 weeks before your symptoms improve. Keep using the medication as directed and **call your doctor**

**promptly if Equetro seems to stop working as well in preventing your seizures.**

While using Equetro, you may need frequent blood tests at your doctor's office.

**Do not stop taking Equetro without asking your doctor first**, even if you feel fine. You may have increased seizures or unpleasant withdrawal symptoms if you stop using Equetro suddenly.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

 [Detailed Equetro dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not take two doses at one time.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include severe drowsiness, weak or shallow breathing, and loss of consciousness.

## What to avoid

Drinking alcohol can increase some of the side effects of carbamazepine, and can also increase your risk of seizures.

[Grapefruit](#) may interact with carbamazepine and lead to unwanted side effects. Avoid the use of grapefruit products.

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

Carbamazepine could make you sunburn more easily. Avoid sunlight or tanning beds. Wear protective clothing and use [sunscreen](#) (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors.

## Equetro side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to carbamazepine** ([hives](#), difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) **or a severe skin reaction** ([fever](#), [sore throat](#), burning in your eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash that spreads and causes blistering and peeling).

**Seek medical treatment if you have a serious drug reaction that can affect many parts of your body.** Symptoms may include: skin rash, fever, swollen glands, muscle aches, severe weakness, unusual bruising, or yellowing of your skin or eyes.

Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor, such as: sudden mood or behavior changes, depression, [anxiety](#), [insomnia](#), or if you feel agitated, hostile, restless, irritable, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- a skin rash, no matter how mild;
- loss of appetite, right-sided upper stomach pain, dark urine;

- slow, fast, or pounding heartbeats;
- **anemia or other blood problems** - fever, chills, sore throat, mouth sores, bleeding gums, nosebleeds, pale skin, easy bruising, unusual tiredness, feeling light-headed or short of breath; or
- **low levels of sodium in the body** - [headache](#), confusion, severe weakness, feeling unsteady, increased seizures.

Common Equetro side effects may include:

- [dizziness](#), loss of coordination, problems with walking;
- nausea, [vomiting](#); or
- drowsiness.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Equetro side effects](#) (more detail)

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## What other drugs will affect Equetro?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medications at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you take, which may increase side effects or make the medications less effective.

Using Equetro with other drugs that make you drowsy can worsen this effect. Ask your doctor before using opioid medication, a sleeping pill, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety, depression, or seizures.

Many drugs can interact with carbamazepine, and some drugs should not be used together. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible interactions are listed in this medication

guide. Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Equetro drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does Equetro interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Equetro

+

Enter a drug name

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Tegretol](#), [Carbatrol](#), [Epitol](#), [Carnexiv](#)

## Professional resources

- [Equetro prescribing information](#)
- [Carbamazepine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

### Other brands

[Tegretol](#), [Carbatrol](#), [Epitol](#), [Carnexiv](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Bipolar Disorder](#)

## Further information


Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Equetro only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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### DRUG STATUS

Availability	
Rx	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
	Drug history at FDA

### User Reviews & Ratings

[5 Reviews](#)

### Images

[Equetro 200 mg \(SPD417 SPD417 200 mg\)](#)



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