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# Trileptal

**Generic name:** [oxcarbazepine](#) [ *ox-kar-BAY-zeh-peen* ]

**Drug class:** [Dibenzazepine anticonvulsants](#)

Medically reviewed by [Sanjai Sinha, MD](#). Last updated on Jul 22, 2024.

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## What is Trileptal?

Trileptal is an an [anticonvulsant](#) or [antiepileptic medicine](#). It works by decreasing nerve impulses that cause seizures and pain.

Trileptal is used either alone or with other medicines to treat [partial seizures](#).

Trileptal is used as a single medicine in adults and children who are at least 4 years old. It is used with other medicines in adults and children who are at least 2 years old.

## Warnings

**Do not stop using Trileptal suddenly.**

**Seek medical treatment if you have symptoms of a serious drug reaction:** [skin rash](#), [fever](#), swollen glands, flu-like symptoms, unusual bruising or bleeding, or yellowing of your skin or eyes.

**Call your doctor right away if you have symptoms of low sodium levels in your body**, such as [nausea](#), confusion, severe weakness, [muscle pain](#), or increased seizures.

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.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not take Trileptal if you are allergic to oxcarbazepine or [eslicarbazepine](#).

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- liver disease;
- kidney disease;
- mood problems or suicidal thoughts; or

- an [allergy](#) to [carbamazepine](#) ([Carbatrol](#), [Tegretol](#)).

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking oxcarbazepine. Your doctor will need to check your progress at regular visits. Your family or other caregivers should also be alert to changes in your mood or symptoms.

**Do not start or stop taking Trileptal during pregnancy without your doctor's advice.** Having a seizure during pregnancy could harm both mother and baby. **Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant while taking oxcarbazepine for seizures.**

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

Oxcarbazepine can make [birth control pills](#) less effective. Ask your doctor about using a non-hormonal [birth control](#) (condom, diaphragm with spermicide) to prevent pregnancy.

You should not breast-feed while you are taking Trileptal.

Do not give this medicine to a child without medical advice. **There are specific age restrictions for the use of oxcarbazepine in children, depending on the dose form and whether it is used alone or with other medicines.**

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

## How should I take Trileptal?

Take Trileptal exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Shake the **Trileptal oral suspension** (liquid) before you measure a dose. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Give the liquid directly from the oral syringe, or mix the medicine with a small glass of water. After using the syringe, rinse it with water and allow it to air dry.

You may take the Trileptal oral liquid or tablets with or without food.

You may need frequent blood tests.

Do not stop using oxcarbazepine suddenly, even if you feel fine. Stopping suddenly may cause increased seizures. Follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

In case of emergency, wear or carry medical identification to let others know you use Trileptal.

Seizures are often treated with a combination of drugs. Use all medications as directed by your doctor. Read the medication guide or patient instructions provided with each medication. Do not change your doses or medication schedule without your doctor's advice.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Throw away any unused **liquid** 7 weeks after opening the bottle.

 [Detailed Trileptal 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.

## What to avoid

**Do not drink alcohol.** Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects, and may increase the risk of seizures.

Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated during exercise, in hot weather, or by not drinking enough fluids. Follow your doctor's instructions about the type and amount of liquids you should drink.

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

## Trileptal side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Trileptal**: [hives](#); difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**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, flu-like symptoms, muscle aches, severe weakness, unusual bruising, or yellowing of your skin or eyes.

Oxcarbazepine can reduce the sodium in your body to dangerously low levels, which can cause a life-threatening electrolyte imbalance. **Call your doctor right away if you have** nausea, lack of energy, confusion, feeling tired or irritable, severe weakness, muscle pain, or increased seizures.

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

Common Trileptal side effects may include:

- [dizziness](#), drowsiness, tiredness;
- balance or coordination problems;
- nausea, [vomiting](#);
- tremors or shaking;
- double vision; or
- rash.

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.

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

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## What other drugs will affect Trileptal?

Using Trileptal 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 or seizures.

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.

Many drugs can interact with oxcarbazepine. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible interactions are listed here. Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

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

## Does Trileptal interact with my other drugs?

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

Trileptal

+

Enter a drug name

Add

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Oxtellar XR](#)

## Professional resources

- [Trileptal prescribing information](#)
- [Oxcarbazepine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

### Other brands

[Oxtellar XR](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Seizures](#)
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## Further information

- Your pharmacist has information about Trileptal.

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

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

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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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

10+  
years

FDA approved 2000



## User Reviews & Ratings

7.9 / 10

[93 Reviews](#)

## Images

[Trileptal 600 mg \(TF TF CG CG\)](#)



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