



Oxcarbazepine Regime in Headache and Facial Pain Syndromes:

Oxcarbazepine is used to suppress the pain of various headache and facial pain syndromes including trigeminal neuralgia, trigeminal neuropathy and SUNCT/SUNA. The dose has to be increased gradually as given below. Continue increasing the dose until it is effective at suppressing your pain or you reach the maximum dose of 1500mgs twice daily. If you start to get any side effects please let your General Practitioner or Neurologist know as soon as possible.

	Morning	Midday	Afternoon	Night time
For 3 days take:				300mg
For 3 days take:	300mg			300mg
For 7 days take:	300mg	300mg		300mg
For 7 days take:	300mg	300mg	300mg	300mg
Thereafter take:	300mg	300mg	300mg	600mg

Side-effects:

As with all medications, there are potential side effects in a small number of patients. The most often reported effects are: hyponatremia (low sodium level in the blood), nausea, vomiting, weakness, thirst, loss of appetite, confusion, hallucinations, muscle pain and weakness, abdominal pain, dizziness, somnolence, double vision, fatigue and rash.

Do not stop taking Oxcarbazepine unless your doctor tells you to. If your treatment is stopped it should be done gradually.

Special note:

A routine blood test for electrolyte profile and full blood count should be performed monthly until the patient is on a stable dose of oxcarbazepine. Thereafter, the blood tests need to be repeated on a six-monthly basis.

Pregnancy and Breast feeding :

Oxcarbazepine is not recommended if you are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or are breastfeeding. Women of childbearing age should take adequate contraceptive precautions.

This leaflet should be read in conjunction with the product characteristic leaflet that can be found inside all boxes of medication. The use of any medicine is based on considerations of how benefits outweigh potential side effects. **Your prescribing doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of the medication as it relates to you and answer any further questions you may have.**