Trileptal

Your child has been diagnosed with epilepsy. We have prescribed an antiepileptic medication to control seizures called Trileptal (Oxcarbazepine). For some children Trileptal alone will control the seizures; other children may need additional antiepileptic medications.

Like any medication, Trileptal may have side effects. Please report any of the following side effects to our office. Some of these symptoms may also be related to your child’s dose or medication level requiring an adjustment by our office.

- Allergic reaction including rash or hives
- Nausea, vomiting
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Visual Problems

The FDA has released an alert regarding the possible relationship between suicidality (suicidal behavior or ideations) and antiepileptic medications. Please report any concerns regarding a change in your child’s mood or behavior immediately to our office.

The following is specific information regarding Trileptal administration

- Trileptal may be given in tablet or liquid form. The liquid forms should be measured with a medication syringe or cup, not a teaspoon.
- Trileptal may lower your child’s sodium (salt) level. You should call our office if your child becomes ill or dehydrated as the sodium level may need to be monitored.
- Call our office if you notice a change in your child’s seizure frequency or severity.
- Trileptal is usually prescribed to be taken twice each day. It is important to give Trileptal the same time each day during waking hours. The medication should be evenly spaced during the day. (For example, 7 am and 7 pm). You will need to adjust the times around your child’s usual schedule.
- Trileptal may be given at the same time as other antiepileptic medications or with food to reduce nausea.
- Antacids should not be given within 2 hours of administering Trileptal.
- Your child should not take Tagamet, Prilosec, Aspirin or Benadryl while taking Trileptal.
• If you missed one dose of Trileptal, give it as soon as you realize the dose has been missed. If you have missed more than 2 doses, please call our office for directions. If your child vomits within 20 minutes after taking their dose of Trileptal, you should repeat the dose.
• Do not stop giving Trileptal without talking to our office as this can result in sudden and severe seizures.
• Keep all medications locked and out of the reach of children.
• Stay with your child until you are certain he/she has swallowed the medication.
• Bring your Trileptal containers to your appointment in our office.
• The possibility of interactions between medications can occur. Inform your child’s physician and pharmacist that your child is taking Trileptal.
• If too much Trileptal is accidentally taken, please call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1212.
• It is recommended that all adolescents begin taking 1000 mg Calcium and 400 IU Vitamin D while being prescribed any antiepileptic medication to prevent osteoporosis.

We will be monitoring your child by discussing your child’s response to the medication as well as evaluating blood tests periodically. Blood samples will be checked routinely as long as your child receives Trileptal. We will be checking the actual medication level in your child’s blood. This level is referred to as a therapeutic level. The best time to have your child’s blood drawn is before the morning dose of medication. This is called a trough level. Having a therapeutic level should provide seizure prevention at a safe level for your child. The level that has been established for Trileptal is 10 to 35.

Your child’s blood count (CBC) and liver function tests will also be routinely monitored for potential complications of Trileptal. We will contact you as soon as we receive the results of your child’s blood tests.

Your child’s medication will be started gradually to minimize the development of any side effects. You will need to follow the following schedule to begin the medication.

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Call our office to discuss your child’s medication on _________. See the attached sheet for instructions for having your child’s blood drawn. You should schedule an appointment for _____ month(s) from now.

8/13/09