

CARBAMAZEPINE (Tegretol) Side Effects:

Most common: dizziness, sleepiness, nausea, headache, minor rash. (ER versions may cause fewer side effects in some patients, but the evidence is not clear.)

Serious but rare: Low levels of blood cells that cause problems in fighting infections, carrying oxygen, or helping blood clotting (including agranulocytosis, aplastic anemia, neutropenia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, and pancytopenia reported). Liver problems (including slight increases in liver enzymes, cholestatic and hepatocellular jaundice, hepatitis and, rarely, liver failure, hyponatremia, SIADH). Life-threatening rash including toxic epidermal necrolysis and Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

Pregnancy: Rate of major birth defect reported to be 2.2%–7.9%. Neural tube defects (0.5%–1%), head and face defects, cardiovascular defects, and hypospadias (urethra exits on the underside of the penis) reported.

This is a simplified list of side effects focusing on what is common or severe because complete lists of more rare and less serious side effects are often overwhelming. If desired, complete lists of potential side effects can be found on reputable web sites like Drugs.com.