




# Oxcarbazepine

<b>Synonyms</b>	Trileptal, Oxtellar
<b>Clinical Indication</b>	<p>For monitoring patients on oxcarbazepine.</p> <p>Oxcarbazepine is an anti-epileptic drug used alone or in combination with other medications to treat focal and or tonic-clonic seizures. It is a newer drug that is similar in structure and effect to carbamazepine but was developed with the aim of causing fewer side effects.</p>
<b>Part of Profile / See Also</b>	
<b>Request Form</b>	Combined Pathology manual Blood form (Yellow/Black) or ICE request
<b>Availability / Frequency of Analysis</b>	Referred test: Analysed by the TDM Unit, Chalfont Centre for Epilepsy <a href="#">8353</a> , if specific criteria met.
<b>Turnaround Time</b>	2 weeks
<b>Patient Preparation</b>	Samples should be collected before next dose (trough)
<b>Sample Requirements</b>	
<b>Specimen Type</b>	Serum / lithium heparin plasma
<b>Volume</b>	1ml
<b>Container</b>	 yellow top (SST)  Paediatric lithium heparin (Orange top – Sarstedt)  Paediatric lithium heparin (Green top BD Microtainer)
<b>Reference Range &amp; Units</b>	3 – 35 mg/L
<b>Interferences</b>	Enzyme inducing AEDs enhance the metabolism of the active metabolites of oxcarbazepine and may lower serum concentrations. Valproate can also cause lowered serum oxcarbazepine levels.
<b>Interpretation &amp; Clinical Decision Value (if applicable)</b>	Adverse effects are more frequent at serum concentrations of 35-40 mg/L. In many patients, adverse effects occur intermittently in relation to fluctuating oxcarbazepine metabolite levels. Monitoring MHD concentrations could therefore help in the management of patients on high-dose oxcarbazepine therapy.

## References

Patsalos, P (2008) Antiepileptic drugs – best practice guidelines for therapeutic drug monitoring: A position paper by the subcommission on therapeutic drug monitoring, ILAE Commission on Therapeutic Strategies.

*Epilepsia* **49**:7 1239 – 1276

<https://bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/oxcarbazepine.html>

## Test code

OXCX

## Lab Handling

Aliquot 500ul and store in referrals rack at 4C. Sent daily by first class post to TDM Unit, Chalfont Centre (UCLH).



8353

Accredited to  
ISO 15189:2012