

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS

Assess:

Black Box Warning: Mental status: mood, sensorium, affect, **suicidal tendencies**, increase in psychiatric symptoms, depression, panic; not approved for use in children <12 yr, provide a limited amount of product, continuing follow-ups should be weekly × 4 wk, q3wk × next 4 wk

• Appetite with bulimia nervosa, weight daily; increase nutritious foods in diet, watch for bingeing and vomiting

• **Allergic reactions:** itching, rash, urticaria; **product should be discontinued, may need to give antihistamine**

• B/P (lying/standing), pulse q4hr; if systolic B/P drops 20 mm Hg, hold product, notify prescriber

• **Serotonin syndrome:** nausea, vomiting, sedation, dizziness, sweating, facial flushing, mental changes, shivering, increased B/P; **discontinue product, notify prescriber**

• Weight weekly; appetite may decrease with product

• Alcohol consumption; if alcohol is consumed, hold dose until AM

• **Sexual dysfunction:** ejaculation dysfunction, erectile dysfunction, decreased libido, orgasm dysfunction, priapism

• Assistance with ambulation during therapy, since drowsiness, dizziness occur; safety measures primarily for geriatric patients

• **Pregnancy/breastfeeding:** use only if benefit outweighs risk to fetus; if used during pregnancy, taper in 3rd trimester; use cautiously in breastfeeding, excreted in breast milk

Evaluate:

• Therapeutic response: decreased depression

Teach patient/family:

• That therapeutic effect may take 1-4 wk, may have increased anxiety for first 5-7 days, do not abruptly discontinue

• **Serotonin syndrome:** to report immediately nausea, vomiting, sedation, dizziness, sweating, facial flushing, mental changes, shivering

• To use caution when driving, performing other activities requiring alertness

because drowsiness, dizziness, blurred vision may occur

• To avoid alcohol, other CNS depressants; to avoid all OTC, herbals, supplement products unless approved by prescriber, to take without regard to meals

• To change positions slowly; orthostatic hypotension may occur

Black Box Warning: That clinical worsening of depression and suicide risk may occur, especially in adolescents and young adults, increased depression, thoughts of dying

• To use MedGuide provided

• To notify prescriber if pregnant or planning to become pregnant or if breastfeeding, discuss sexual dysfunction

⚠ HIGH ALERT

eslicarbazepine

(es'lye-kar-bay'ze-peen)

Aptiom

Func. class.: Anticonvulsant

Chem. class.: Carboxamide derivative

ACTION: Exact mechanism unknown; a voltage-gated sodium-channel blocker inhibits repetitive neuronal firing

USES: Partial seizures, adjunctive treatment

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Hypersensitivity to this product or OXcarbazepine

Precautions: Breastfeeding, abrupt discontinuation, depression, driving/operating machinery, ethanol intoxication, hepatic disease, renal disease, hyponatremia, suicidal ideation, pregnancy

DOSAGE AND ROUTES

• **Adult: PO** 400 mg daily; after 1 wk, increase to 800 mg daily, max 1600 mg daily

Renal dose

• **Adult: PO** CCr <50 mL/min 200 mg daily; after 2 wk, increase to 400 mg daily, max 800 mg daily