

CARBIMAZOLE

Carbimazole is part of a group of medicines called “anti-thyroid agents”.

It is used to treat an overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism).

Carbimazole reduces the amount of thyroid hormones your thyroid gland produces.

This medication is initiated by a Specialist before prescribing of the medication is transferred to the GP.

When your medication is prescribed by the GP, you will be required to have regular blood test monitoring, to ensure their optimum safety.

These blood tests are required every 12 weeks and are comprised of a Full Blood Count (FBC) and a Thyroid Function Test (TFT).

However, you may need blood tests more often if your dose is changed, you develop symptoms that may suggest your dose is not quite correct or if you are pregnant.

Side Effects:

Please talk to your Doctor, if these symptoms are troublesome or persist:

- feeling sick (nausea)
- being sick (vomiting) or diarrhoea
- feeling dizzy
- headache
- painful joints
- itchy skin or rash
- thinning hair

Stop taking carbimazole and tell a Doctor or Specialist straight away if:

- you have a high temperature, sore throat, mouth sores, toothache or flu-like symptoms – these can be signs of a low white blood cell count
- you have sudden severe stomach (abdominal) pain – this can be a sign of an inflamed pancreas (acute pancreatitis)
- the whites of your eyes or your skin turns yellow (this may be less obvious on brown or black skin), dark pee – this can be a sign of liver problems
- you have swollen glands – this can be a sign of infection
- you feel faint, tired and sweaty – these can be signs of low blood sugar

Pregnancy

Women of childbearing potential should use effective contraception during treatment with carbimazole.

Carbimazole is not usually recommended in pregnancy.

This is because there's a small chance that carbimazole can cause problems for your baby's development in the first few months of pregnancy.

If you become pregnant while taking carbimazole, keep taking your medicine and speak to your doctor.

It's important to keep treating an overactive thyroid. If your thyroid hormone levels are too high, this can also cause problems for your baby.

When taking carbimazole in pregnancy, you'll need regular blood tests to check you're on the right dose. You may also have extra scans to check the health of your growing baby.

Breastfeeding

Carbimazole passes into breast milk but only in small amounts.

After a while, your doctor may take a blood test for the baby to check the levels of their thyroid hormones.

If you have any concerns about your baby's health, talk to your midwife, health visitor or doctor straight away.

<https://www.btf-thyroid.org/hyperthyroidism-leaflet>