

**Composition:**

Tablets: Each DELIPS (200-400) Tablet contains:

Carbamazepine (200-400) mg.

Oral Suspension: Each 5 ml DELIPS Oral Suspension contains:

Carbamazepine 100 mg.

Mechanism of Action:

Although numerous pharmacological effects of carbamazepine have been described in the published literature (e.g.; modulation of ion channels [sodium and calcium], receptor-mediated neurotransmission GABAergic & glutamatergic), the contribution of these effects to the efficacy of carbamazepine in acute manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar disorder is unknown.

Pharmacokinetics:

Carbamazepine is absorbed almost completely, but relatively slowly from the tablets. With respect to the amount of active substance absorbed, there is no clinically relevant difference between the oral dosage forms. Peak plasma concentration is reached within 12 hours of a single oral dose administration. It is bound to plasma proteins to the extent of (70-80)%. Carbamazepine is metabolised in the liver, where the epoxide pathway of biotransformation is the most important, yielding the 10, 11-transdiol derivative and its glucuronide as the main metabolites.

The elimination half-life of unchanged carbamazepine averages approx 36 hours following a single oral dose, whereas after repeated administration it averages 16-24 hours. After administration of a single oral dose of 400 mg carbamazepine, 72% is excreted in the urine and 28% in the faeces.

Indications:

DELIPS is:

- Indicated for the treatment of acute manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder.
- Indicated for the treatment of the pain associated with trigeminal neuralgia.
- An anti-epileptic drug (AED) indicated for the treatment of partial seizures with complex symptomatology, generalized tonic-clonic seizures, and mixed seizures.

Contraindications:

- Patients with atrioventricular block, a history of bone marrow depression or of hepatic porphyria.
- Known hypersensitivity to carbamazepine or any other components of the product.
- Concomitant use with monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) or use within 14 days of discontinuing an MAOI.

Warnings & Precautions:

Caution should be exercised when using DELIPS because of the possibility of developing:

- Agranulocytosis, aplastic anaemia, decreased platelet or white blood cell counts.
- Some liver function tests may be found to be abnormal, particularly gamma glutamyl transferase.
- Suicidal ideation and behaviour.

- Hypersensitivity reactions and serious dermatological reactions, including toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN: also known as Lyell's syndrome) and Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS).

- Abrupt withdrawal of DELIPS may precipitate seizures; therefore, carbamazepine withdrawal (discontinuation) should be gradual.

Pregnancy & Lactation:

Pregnancy: Pregnancy category D. Carbamazepine should not be used during pregnancy unless it is judged that the potential benefit is greater than the potential risk to the fetus after careful consideration of appropriate alternative treatment options.

Lactation: Carbamazepine is excreted in breast milk, should be made whether to discontinue the drug or discontinue nursing, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Drug Interactions:

- Delips may decrease the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives.
 - CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., cimetidine, diltiazem, macrolides, erythromycin, clarithromycin) inhibit DELIPS metabolism and can thus increase plasma carbamazepine levels.
 - CYP3A4 inducers (e.g., cisplatin, rifampin, phenobarbital, phenytoin and theophylline) can increase the rate of DELIPS metabolism and can thus decrease plasma carbamazepine levels.
- The Concomitant use of carbamazepine with:

- Levacetam: Has been reported to increase carbamazepine-induced toxicity.
- Isoniazid: Has been reported to increase isoniazid-induced hepatotoxicity.
- Some diuretics (hydrochlorothiazide, furosemide): may lead to symptomatic hyponatraemia.
- Metoclopramide or major tranquillisers (e.g.; haloperidol, thioridazine): May result in an increase in neurological side-effects.
- Lithium: May cause enhanced neurotoxicity.

Side Effects:

Most common adverse reactions include: Dizziness, somnolence, nausea, vomiting, constipation, pruritus, dry mouth, asthenia, blurred vision, and speech disorder.

Driving & Using Machines:

Patients should not drive or operate machinery until it has been determined whether DELIPS may adversely affect their ability to drive or operate machinery.

Dosage & Administration:

DELIPS may be taken during, after or between meals, with a little liquid e.g. a glass of water.

Epilepsy: The dose of carbamazepine should be adjusted according to the individual requirements of each patient to achieve adequate seizure control.

- Adults: An initial dose of 100-200 mg taken once or twice daily is recommended. This may be followed by a gradual increase until the best response is obtained, often at a dose of 800-1200 mg per day. In some instances, 1600 mg or even 2000 mg daily may be necessary.

- Children and adolescents: It is advised that a gradually increasing dosage scheme is used and should be adjusted to suit the individual needs of each patient. Usual dosage 10-20 mg/kg body weight taken in several divided doses daily.

Age	Recommended dose	Age	Maximum recommended dose
5-10 years	400 - 600 mg daily (to be taken in several divided doses daily).	≤ 6 years	35 mg/kg/day
10-15 years	600 - 1000 mg daily (to be taken in several divided doses daily).	6-15 years	1000 mg/day
>15 years	800 - 1200 mg daily (same as adult dose).	>15 years	1200 mg/day

When DELIPS is added to an antiepileptic therapy, it should be done gradually while maintaining or, if necessary, adjusting the dose of other antiepileptic drugs.

Trigeminal neuralgia: Slowly raise the initial dosage of 200-400 mg daily until freedom from pain is achieved. In the majority of patients, a dosage of 200 mg 3 or 4 times a day is sufficient to maintain a pain free state. In some instances, doses of 1600 mg DELIPS daily may be needed. However, once the pain is in remission, the dosage should be gradually reduced to the lowest possible maintenance dose. Maximum recommended dose is 1200 mg/day. When pain relief has been obtained, attempts should be made to gradually discontinue therapy, until another attack occurs.

For the prophylaxis of manic depressive psychosis in patients unresponsive to lithium therapy:

Initial dose of 400 mg daily, in divided doses, increasing gradually until symptoms are controlled or a total of 1600 mg given in several divided doses is reached. The usual dosage range is 400-600 mg daily, given in several divided doses.

Overdose:

Symptoms: The first signs and symptoms of carbamazepine overdose appear after 1 to 3 hours.

Neuromuscular disturbances are the most prominent. Cardiovascular disorders are generally milder, and severe cardiac complications occur only when very high doses (greater than 60 g) have been ingested.

Treatment: There is no specific antidote. The case should initially be managed based on the patient's clinical condition. Evacuation of the stomach, gastric lavage, and administration of activated charcoal can be performed. Supportive medical care should be performed in an intensive care unit with cardiac monitoring and careful correction of electrolyte imbalance.

Storage:

Store at a temperature below 25°C. Keep out of reach of children.

Packaging:

Tablets: Each Delips (200-400) carton box contains 20 or 30 tablets in two or three blister strips.

Oral Suspension: Each Delips Carton box contains amber glass bottle of 100 ml.

