



ADR

Tip of the Month

Carbamazepine-induced severe skin reactions

- Carbamazepine is a very useful anti-epileptic medication.
- Patients with the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) allele HLA-B*1502, found almost exclusively in individuals of Asian ancestry, particularly Han Chinese, have more frequent severe or even fatal skin reactions, such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis, when taking carbamazepine.
- Physicians should screen patients with Asian ancestry for HLA-B*1502 allele before initiating treatment with carbamazepine.

Reference: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/_2008/tegretol_hpc-cps-eng.php

***Please report all serious
adverse drug reactions (ADRs)***