

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use LITHIUM and LITHIUM CARBONATE safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for LITHIUM and LITHIUM CARBONATE.

LITHIUM oral solution, for oral use
LITHIUM CARBONATE tablets, for oral use
LITHIUM CARBONATE capsules, for oral use

Initial U.S. Approval: 1970

WARNING: LITHIUM TOXICITY

See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.

Lithium toxicity is closely related to serum lithium concentrations, and can occur at doses close to therapeutic concentrations. Facilities for prompt and accurate serum lithium determinations should be available before initiating therapy (2.3, 5.1).

RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

Indications and Usage (1) 09/2018
Dosage and Administration (2.2) 09/2018

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Lithium is a mood-stabilizing agent indicated as monotherapy for the treatment of bipolar I disorder:

- Treatment of acute manic and mixed episodes in patients 7 years and older (1)
- Maintenance treatment in patients 7 years and older (1)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Recommended starting dosage for adults and pediatric patients over 30 kg (2.2):
 - Tablets or Capsules: 300 mg, three times daily, or
 - Oral Solution: 8mEq lithium (5 mL) three times daily
- Recommended starting dosage for pediatric patients 20 to 30 kg (2.2):
 - Tablets or Capsules: 300 mg twice daily, or
 - Oral Solution: 8mEq (5mL), twice daily
- Obtain serum lithium concentration assay after 3 days, drawn 12 hours after the last oral dose and regularly until patient is stabilized.
- Acute Manic or Mixed Episodes (patients 7 years and older): Titrate to serum lithium concentrations 0.8 to 1.2 mEq/L (2.2).
- Maintenance Treatment for Bipolar I Disorder (patients 7 years and older): Titrate to serum lithium concentrations 0.8 to 1 mEq/L (2.2).
- Pre-treatment Screening: Evaluate renal function, vital signs, electrolytes, thyroid function, concurrent medications, and pregnancy status (2.1).
- Mild to Moderate Renal Impairment (CL_{er} 30 to 89 mL/min): Start with dosages less than those for patients with normal renal function, titrate slowly with frequent monitoring (2.5).
- Severe Renal Impairment (CL_{er}<30mL/min): Avoid use of lithium (2.5).

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

- Oral Solution: 8 mEq of lithium (Li⁺) per 5mL (3)
- Tablets: 300 mg of lithium carbonate (3)

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: CONTENTS*

WARNING: LITHIUM TOXICITY

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1 Pre-treatment Screening
- 2.2 Recommended Dosage

- Capsules: 150 mg, 300 mg, 600 mg of lithium carbonate (3)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Known hypersensitivity to any inactive ingredient in the drug product. (4)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Lithium-Induced Polyuria: May develop during initiation of treatment. Increases risk of lithium toxicity. Educate patient to avoid dehydration. Monitor for lithium toxicity and metabolic acidosis. Discontinue lithium or treat with amiloride as a therapeutic agent (5.2).
- Hyponatremia: Symptoms are more severe with faster-onset hyponatremia. Dehydration from protracted sweating, diarrhea, or elevated temperatures from infection increases risk of hyponatremia and lithium toxicity. Educate patients on maintaining a normal diet with salt and staying hydrated. Monitor for and treat hyponatremia and lithium toxicity, which may necessitate a temporary reduction or cessation of lithium and infusion of serum sodium (5.3).
- Lithium-Induced Chronic Kidney Disease: Associated with structural changes in patients on chronic lithium therapy. Monitor kidney function during treatment with lithium (5.4).
- Encephalopathic Syndrome: Increased risk in patients treated with lithium and an antipsychotic. Monitor routinely for changes to cognitive function (5.5).
- Hypothyroidism and Hyperthyroidism: Monitor thyroid function regularly (5.7).
- Hypercalcemia and Hyperparathyroidism: Associated with long-term lithium use. Monitor serum calcium (5.8).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Common Adverse Reactions:

- Adult Patients: fine hand tremor, polyuria, mild thirst, nausea, general discomfort during initial treatment (6)
- Pediatric Patients (7-17 years): nausea/vomiting, polyuria, thyroid abnormalities, tremor, thirst/polydipsia, dizziness, rash/dermatitis, ataxia/gait disturbance, decreased appetite, and blurry vision (6)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact West-Ward Pharmaceuticals Corp. at 1-800-962-8364 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

- Diuretics, NSAID, renin-angiotensin system antagonists, or metronidazole may increase lithium serum concentrations. Recommend frequent monitoring of serum lithium concentration and adjust dosage when necessary. (2.3, 7.1)
- Serotonergic Agents: Increased risk of serotonin syndrome when co-administered with lithium. (5.6, 7.1)
- Antipsychotics: There have been reports of neurologic adverse reactions in patients treated with lithium and an antipsychotic, ranging from extrapyramidal symptoms to neuroleptic malignant syndrome. (5.5, 7.1)

USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- Pregnancy: May cause fetal and/or neonatal harm (8.1)
- Renal Impairment: Use caution during dose selection, starting with dosages less than those for patients with normal renal function while carefully monitoring for side effects (2.5, 6)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and Medication Guide

Revised: 09/2018

2.3 Serum Lithium Monitoring

2.4 Dosage Adjustments during Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period

2.5 Dosage Adjustments for Patients with Renal Impairment

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FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

WARNING: LITHIUM TOXICITY

Lithium toxicity is closely related to serum lithium concentrations, and can occur at doses close to therapeutic concentrations. Facilities for prompt and accurate serum lithium determinations should be available before initiating treatment [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.3), *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Lithium is a mood-stabilizing agent indicated as monotherapy for the treatment of bipolar I disorder:

- Treatment of acute manic and mixed episodes in patients 7 years and older [see *Clinical Studies* (14)]
- Maintenance treatment in patients 7 years and older [see *Clinical Studies* (14)]

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Pre-treatment Screening

Before initiating treatment with lithium, renal function, vital signs, serum electrolytes, and thyroid function should be evaluated. Concurrent medications should be assessed, and if the patient is a woman of childbearing potential, pregnancy status and potential should be considered.

2.2 Recommended Dosage

See Table 1 for dosage recommendations for acute and maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder in adult and pediatric patients (7 to 17 years).

Obtain serum lithium concentration assay after 3 days, drawn 12 hours after the last oral dose and regularly until patient is stabilized. Fine hand tremor, polyuria, and thirst may occur during initial therapy for the acute manic phase and may persist throughout treatment. Nausea and general discomfort may also appear during the first few days of lithium

administration. These adverse reactions may subside with continued treatment, concomitant administration with food, or temporary reduction or cessation of dosage.

Table 1. Lithium Dosing for Bipolar I Disorder

Patient Group	Formulation	Starting Dose	Dose Titration	Acute Goal		Maintenance Goal	
				Serum Level	Usual Dose	Serum Level	Usual Dose
Adult and Pediatric Patients over 30 kg	Tablets or capsules	300 mg three times daily	300 mg every 3 days	0.8 to 1.2 mEq/L	600 mg two to three times daily	0.8 to 1.0 mEq/L	300 to 600 mg two to three times daily
	Liquid	8 mEq (5 mL) three times daily	8 mEq (5 mL) every 3 days		16 mEq (10mL) two to three times daily		8 to 16 mEq (5 to 10 mL) two to three times daily
Pediatric Patients 20 to 30 kg	Tablets or capsules	300 mg twice daily	300 mg weekly		600 to 1500 mg in divided doses daily		600 to 1200 mg in divided doses daily
	Liquid	8 mEq (5 mL) twice daily	8 mEq (5 mL) weekly		16 to 40 mEq (10 to 25 mL) in divided doses daily		16 to 32 mEq (10 to 20 mL) in divided doses daily

Each 5 mL of Lithium Oral Solution contains 8 mEq of lithium ion (Li⁺) which is equivalent to the amount of lithium in 300 mg of lithium carbonate. See Table 2 for lithium carbonate and lithium oral solution dose conversion.

Table 2. Lithium Carbonate and Lithium Oral Solution Dose Conversion

Lithium Carbonate Tablets or Capsules	Lithium Oral Solution
150 mg	4 mEq (2.5 mL)
300 mg	8 mEq (5 mL)
600 mg	16 mEq (10 mL)

2.3 Serum Lithium Monitoring

Blood samples for serum lithium determination should be drawn immediately prior to the next dose when lithium concentrations are relatively stable (i.e., 12 hours after the previous dose). Total reliance must not be placed on serum concentrations alone. Accurate patient evaluation requires both clinical and laboratory analysis.

In addition to regular monitoring of serum lithium concentrations for patients on maintenance treatment, serum lithium concentrations should be monitored after any change in dosage, concurrent medication (e.g., diuretics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, renin-angiotensin system antagonists, or metronidazole), marked increase or decrease in routinely performed strenuous physical activity (such as an exercise program) and in the event of a concomitant disease [See [Boxed Warning](#), [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#), [Drug Interactions \(7.1\)](#)].

Patients abnormally sensitive to lithium may exhibit toxic signs at serum concentrations that are within what is considered the therapeutic range. Geriatric patients often respond to reduced dosage, and may exhibit signs of toxicity at serum concentrations ordinarily tolerated by other patients [see [Specific Populations \(8.5\)](#)].

2.4 Dosage Adjustments during Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period

If the decision is made to continue lithium treatment during pregnancy, monitor serum lithium concentrations and adjust the dosage as needed in a pregnant woman because renal lithium clearance increases during pregnancy. Avoid sodium restriction or diuretic administration. To decrease the risk of postpartum lithium intoxication, decrease or discontinue lithium therapy two to three days before the expected delivery date to reduce neonatal concentrations and reduce the risk of maternal lithium intoxication due to the change in vascular volume which occurs during delivery. At delivery, vascular volume rapidly decreases and the renal clearance of lithium may decrease to pre-pregnancy concentrations. Restart treatment at the preconception dose when the patient is medically stable after delivery with careful monitoring of serum lithium concentrations [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#) and [Use in Specific Populations \(8.1\)](#)].

2.5 Dosage Adjustments for Patients with Renal Impairment

Start patients with mild to moderately impaired renal function (creatinine clearance 30 to 89 mL/min evaluated by Cockcroft-Gault) with dosages less than those for patients with normal renal function [see [Dosage and Administration \(2.2\)](#)]. Titrate slowly while frequently monitoring serum lithium concentrations and monitoring for signs of lithium toxicity. Lithium is not recommended for use in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance less than 30 mL/min evaluated by Cockcroft-Gault) [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.6\)](#)].

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Each 5 mL of clear, nearly colorless lithium oral solution USP contains 8 mEq lithium ion (Li^+) (equivalent to the amount of lithium in 300 mg of lithium carbonate).

Each 300 mg tablet for oral administration contains: lithium carbonate USP and is a white to off-white, biconvex tablet, scored on one side with product identification "54 452" debossed on the other side.

Each 150 mg capsule for oral administration contains: lithium carbonate USP and is an opaque, white capsule, imprinted with product identification "54 213" on both the cap and the body and containing a white powder.

Each 300 mg capsule for oral administration contains: lithium carbonate USP and is an opaque, light pink-colored capsule, imprinted with product identification "54 463" both the cap and the body and containing a white powder.

Each 600 mg capsule for oral administration contains: lithium carbonate USP and is an opaque, light pink-colored cap with white body, imprinted with product identification "54 702" on both the cap and the body and containing a white powder.

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

Lithium is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to any inactive ingredient in the lithium carbonate tablet or capsule or lithium citrate products [see [Adverse Reactions \(6\)](#)].

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Acute Lithium Toxicity

The toxic concentrations for lithium (≥ 1.5 mEq/L) are close to the therapeutic range (0.8 to 1.2 mEq/L). Some patients abnormally sensitive to lithium may exhibit toxic signs at serum concentrations that are considered within the therapeutic range [see *Boxed Warning, Dosage and Administration (2.3)*]. Lithium may take up to 24 hours to distribute into brain tissue, so occurrence of acute toxicity symptoms may be delayed.

Diarrhea, vomiting, drowsiness, muscular weakness and lack of coordination may be early signs of lithium toxicity, and can occur at lithium concentrations below 2.0 mEq/L. At higher concentrations, giddiness, ataxia, blurred vision, tinnitus and a large output of dilute urine may be seen. Serum lithium concentrations above 3.0 mEq/L may produce a complex clinical picture involving multiple organs and organ systems, coma, and eventually death. Serum lithium concentrations should not be permitted to exceed 2.0 mEq/L.

Neurological signs of lithium toxicity range from mild neurological adverse reactions such as fine tremor, lightheadedness, and weakness; to moderate manifestations like apathy, drowsiness, hyperreflexia, muscle twitching, and slurred speech; and severe manifestations such as clonus, confusion, seizure, coma and death. Cardiac manifestations involve electrocardiographic changes, such as prolonged QT interval, ST and T-wave changes and myocarditis. Renal manifestations include urine concentrating defect, nephrogenic diabetes insipidus, and renal failure. Respiratory manifestations include dyspnea, aspiration pneumonia, and respiratory failure. Gastrointestinal manifestations include nausea, vomiting, and bloating. No specific antidote for lithium poisoning is known. Early symptoms of lithium toxicity can usually be treated by reduction or cessation of lithium, before restarting treatment at a lower dose 24 to 48 hours later [see *Overdosage (10)*].

The risk of acute toxicity is increased with a recent onset of concurrent illness or with the concomitant administration of drugs which increase lithium serum concentrations by pharmacokinetic interactions [see *Drug Interactions (7)*]. Additional risk factors for acute lithium toxicity include acute ingestion, age-related decline in renal function, volume depletion and/or changes in electrolyte concentrations, especially sodium and potassium. Dose requirements during the acute manic phase are higher to maintain therapeutic serum concentrations and decrease when manic symptoms subside. The risk of lithium toxicity is very high in patients with significant renal or cardiovascular disease, severe debilitation or dehydration, or sodium depletion, and for patients receiving prescribed medications that may affect kidney function, such as angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors), diuretics (loops and thiazides) and NSAIDs. For these patients, consider starting with lower doses and titrating slowly while frequently monitoring serum lithium concentrations and signs of lithium toxicity.

To reduce the risk of acute lithium toxicity during treatment initiation, facilities for prompt and accurate serum lithium determinations should be available before initiating treatment [see *Boxed Warning, Dosage and Administration (2.3)*]. Advise patients and caregivers to watch for signs of early toxicity and to discontinue lithium and immediately inform their health care provider if they occur.

5.2 Lithium-Induced Polyuria

Chronic lithium treatment may be associated with diminution of renal concentrating ability, occasionally presenting as nephrogenic diabetes insipidus, with polyuria and polydipsia. The concentrating defect and natriuretic effect characteristic of this condition may develop within weeks of lithium initiation. Lithium can also cause renal tubular acidosis, resulting in hyperchloremic metabolic acidosis. Such patients should be carefully managed to avoid dehydration with resulting lithium retention and toxicity. This condition is usually reversible when lithium is discontinued, although for patients treated with long-term lithium, nephrogenic diabetes insipidus may be only partly reversible upon discontinuation of lithium. Amiloride may be considered as a therapeutic agent for lithium-induced nephrogenic diabetes insipidus.

5.3 Hyponatremia

Lithium can cause hyponatremia by decreasing sodium reabsorption by the renal tubules, leading to sodium depletion. Therefore, it is essential for patients receiving lithium treatment to maintain a normal diet, including salt, and an adequate fluid intake (2500 to 3000 mL) at least during the initial stabilization period. Decreased tolerance to lithium has also been reported to ensue from protracted sweating or diarrhea and, if such occur, supplemental fluid and salt should be administered under careful medical supervision and lithium intake reduced or suspended until the condition is resolved. In addition, concomitant infection with elevated temperatures may also necessitate a temporary reduction or cessation of medication.

Symptoms are also more severe with faster-onset hyponatremia. Mild hyponatremia (i.e., serum Na > 120 mEq/L) can be asymptomatic. Below this threshold, clinical signs are usually present, consisting mainly of changes in mental status, such as altered personality, lethargy, and confusion. For more severe hyponatremia (serum Na < 115 mEq/L), stupor, neuromuscular hyperexcitability, hyperreflexia, seizures, coma, and death can result. During treatment of hyponatremia, serum sodium should not be elevated by more than 10 to 12 meq/L in 24 hours, or 18 meq/L in 48 hours. In the case of severe hyponatremia where severe neurologic symptoms are present, a faster infusion rate to correct serum sodium concentration may be needed. Patients rapidly treated or with serum sodium <120mEq/L are more at risk of developing osmotic demyelination syndrome (previously called central pontine myelinolysis). Occurrence is more common among patients with alcoholism, undernutrition, or other chronic debilitating illness. Common signs include flaccid paralysis, dysarthria. In severe cases with extended lesions patients may develop a locked-in syndrome (generalized motor paralysis). Damage often is permanent. If neurologic symptoms start to develop during treatment of hyponatremia, serum sodium correction should be suspended to mitigate the development of permanent neurologic damage.

5.4 Lithium-Induced Chronic Kidney Disease

The predominant form of chronic renal disease associated with long-term lithium treatment is a chronic tubulointerstitial nephropathy (CTIN). The biopsy findings in patients with lithium induced CTIN include tubular atrophy, interstitial fibrosis, sclerotic glomeruli, tubular dilation, and nephron atrophy with cyst formation. The relationship between renal function and morphologic changes and their association with lithium treatment has not been established. CTIN patients might present with nephrotic proteinuria (>3.0g/dL), worsening renal insufficiency and/or nephrogenic diabetes insipidus. Postmarketing cases consistent with nephrotic syndrome in patients with or without CTIN have also been reported. The biopsy findings in patients with nephrotic syndrome include minimal change disease and focal segmental glomerulosclerosis. The discontinuation of lithium in patients with nephrotic syndrome has resulted in remission of nephrotic syndrome.

Kidney function should be assessed prior to and during lithium treatment. Routine urinalysis and other tests may be used to evaluate tubular function (e.g., urine specific gravity or osmolality following a period of water deprivation, or 24-hour urine volume) and glomerular function (e.g., serum creatinine, creatinine clearance, or proteinuria). During lithium treatment, progressive or sudden changes in renal function, even within the normal range, indicate the need for re-evaluation of treatment.

5.5 Encephalopathic Syndrome

An encephalopathic syndrome, characterized by weakness, lethargy, fever, tremulousness and confusion, extrapyramidal symptoms, leukocytosis, elevated serum enzymes, BUN and fasting blood glucose, has occurred in patients treated with lithium and an antipsychotic. In some instances, the syndrome was followed by irreversible brain damage. Because of a possible causal relationship between these events and the concomitant administration of lithium and antipsychotics, patients receiving such combined treatment should be monitored closely for early evidence of neurological toxicity and treatment discontinued promptly if such signs appear. This encephalopathic syndrome may be similar to or the same as neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS).

5.6 Serotonin Syndrome

Lithium can precipitate serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition. The risk is increased with concomitant use of other serotonergic drugs (including selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, triptans, tricyclic antidepressants, fentanyl, tramadol, tryptophan, buspirone, and St. John's Wort) and with drugs that impair metabolism of serotonin, i.e., MAOIs [*see Drug Interactions (7.1)*].

Serotonin syndrome signs and symptoms may include mental status changes (e.g., agitation, hallucinations, delirium, and coma), autonomic instability (e.g., tachycardia, labile blood pressure, dizziness, diaphoresis, flushing, hyperthermia), neuromuscular symptoms (e.g., tremor, rigidity, myoclonus, hyperreflexia, incoordination), seizures, and gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea).

Monitor all patients taking lithium for the emergence of serotonin syndrome. Discontinue treatment with lithium and any concomitant serotonergic agents immediately if the above symptoms occur, and initiate supportive symptomatic treatment. If concomitant use of lithium with other serotonergic drugs is clinically warranted, inform patients of the increased risk for serotonin syndrome and monitor for symptoms.

5.7 Hypothyroidism or Hyperthyroidism

Lithium is concentrated within the thyroid and can inhibit thyroid synthesis and release which can lead to hypothyroidism. Where hypothyroidism exists, careful monitoring of thyroid function during lithium stabilization and maintenance allows for correction of changing thyroid parameters, if any. Where hypothyroidism occurs during lithium stabilization and maintenance, supplemental thyroid treatment may be used. Paradoxically, some cases of hyperthyroidism have been reported including Grave's disease, toxic multinodular goiter and silent thyroiditis.

Monitor thyroid function before the initiation of treatment, at three months and every six to twelve months while treatment is ongoing. If serum thyroid tests warrant concern, monitoring should occur more frequently.

5.8 Hypercalcemia and Hyperparathyroidism

Long-term lithium treatment is associated with persistent hyperparathyroidism and hypercalcemia. When clinical manifestations of hypercalcemia are present, lithium withdrawal and change to another mood stabilizer may be necessary. Hypercalcemia may not resolve upon discontinuation of lithium, and may require surgical intervention. Lithium-induced cases of hyperparathyroidism are more often multiglandular compared to standard cases. False hypercalcemia due to plasma volume depletion resulting from nephrogenic diabetes insipidus should be excluded in individuals with mildly increased serum calcium. Monitor serum calcium concentrations regularly.

5.9 Unmasking of Brugada Syndrome

There have been postmarketing reports of a possible association between treatment with lithium and the unmasking of Brugada Syndrome. Brugada Syndrome is a disorder characterized by abnormal electrocardiographic (ECG) findings and a risk of sudden death. Lithium should be avoided in patients with Brugada Syndrome or those suspected of having Brugada Syndrome. Consultation with a cardiologist is recommended if: (1) treatment with lithium is under consideration for patients suspected of having Brugada Syndrome or patients who have risk factors for Brugada Syndrome, e.g., unexplained syncope, a family history of Brugada Syndrome, or a family history of sudden unexplained death before the age of 45 years, (2) patients who develop unexplained syncope or palpitations after starting lithium treatment.

5.10 Pseudotumor Cerebri

Cases of pseudotumor cerebri (increased intracranial pressure and papilledema) have been reported with lithium use. If undetected, this condition may result in enlargement of the blind spot, constriction of visual fields and eventual blindness due to optic atrophy. Consider discontinuing lithium if this syndrome occurs.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions are described in greater detail in other sections:

- Acute Lithium Toxicity [see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]
- Lithium-Induced Polyuria [see Warnings and Precautions (5.2)]
- Hyponatremia [see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)]
- Lithium-Induced Chronic Kidney Disease [see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)]
- Encephalopathic Syndrome [see Warnings and Precautions (5.5)]
- Serotonin Syndrome [see Warnings and Precautions (5.6)]
- Hypothyroidism or Hyperthyroidism [see Warnings and Precautions (5.7)]
- Hypercalcemia and Hyperparathyroidism [see Warnings and Precautions (5.8)]
- Unmasking of Brugada Syndrome [see Warnings and Precautions (5.9)]
- Pseudotumor Cerebri [see Warnings and Precautions (5.10)]

6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in clinical practice.

Pediatric Patients (7 to 17 years)

Bipolar I Disorder: The following findings are based on an 8-week, placebo-controlled study for acute manic or mixed episodes of bipolar I disorder in pediatric patients 7 to 17 years (N= 81). In this study, lithium was administered at daily doses ranging from 300 to 3600 (mean dose 1483 mg ± 584) with serum levels ranging from 0 to 2.0 (mean level 0.98 mEq/L ± 0.47).

Common Adverse Reactions (incidence ≥ 5% and at least twice the rate of placebo): nausea/vomiting, polyuria, thyroid abnormalities, tremor, thirst/polydipsia, dizziness, rash/dermatitis, ataxia/gait disturbance, decreased appetite, and blurry vision.

Adverse Reactions Occurring at an Incidence of 2% or More in Lithium-Treated Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions associated with the use of lithium (incidence of 2% or greater, rounded to the nearest percent, and lithium incidence greater than placebo) that occurred during acute therapy (up to 8-weeks in pediatric patients with bipolar disorder) are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Adverse Reactions Reported in 2% or More of Pediatric Patients on Lithium and That Occurred at Greater Incidence Than in the Placebo Group in the 8-Week Acute Bipolar Trial

System Organ Class/ Preferred Term	Placebo N=28 %	Lithium N=53 %
Gastrointestinal Disorders		
Nausea/vomiting	29	57
General Disorders		
Fatigue	4	26
Genitourinary Disorders		

Polyuria (Including Enuresis)	14	38
Investigations		
Increased TSH	0	25
Metabolism and nutrition disorders		
Thirst/polydipsia	11	28
Decreased appetite	4	9
Nervous system disorders		
Ataxia/gait disturbance	0	13
Blurry vision	0	9
Disorientation	0	6
Dizziness	7	23
Tremor	7	32
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders		
Rash/dermatitis	0	13

Adult Patients

The following adverse reactions have been identified following use of lithium. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Central Nervous System: tremor, muscle hyperirritability (fasciculations, twitching, clonic movements of whole limbs), hypertonicity, ataxia, choreoathetotic movements, hyperactive deep tendon reflexes, extrapyramidal symptoms including acute dystonia, cogwheel rigidity, blackout spells, epileptiform seizures, slurred speech, dizziness, vertigo, downbeat nystagmus, incontinence of urine or feces, somnolence, psychomotor retardation, restlessness, confusion, stupor, coma, tongue movements, tics, tinnitus, hallucinations, poor memory, slowed intellectual functioning, startled response, worsening of organic brain syndromes, myasthenic syndromes (rarely).

EEG Changes: diffuse slowing, widening of frequency spectrum, potentiation and disorganization of background rhythm.

Cardiovascular: conduction disturbance (mostly sinus node dysfunction with possibly severe sinus bradycardia and sinoatrial block), ventricular tachyarrhythmia, peripheral vasculopathy (resembling Raynaud's Syndrome).

ECG Changes: reversible flattening, isoelectricity or rarely inversion of T-waves, prolongation of the QTc interval.

Gastrointestinal: anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, gastritis, salivary gland swelling, abdominal pain, excessive salivation, flatulence, indigestion.

Genitourinary: glycosuria, decreased creatinine clearance, albuminuria, oliguria, and symptoms of nephrogenic diabetes insipidus including polyuria, thirst, and polydipsia.

Dermatologic: drying and thinning of hair, alopecia, anesthesia of skin, chronic folliculitis, xerosis cutis, psoriasis onset or exacerbation, generalized pruritus with or without rash, cutaneous ulcers, angioedema.

Autonomic Nervous System: blurred vision, dry mouth, impotence/sexual dysfunction.

Miscellaneous: fatigue, lethargy, transient scotoma, exophthalmos, dehydration, weight loss, leukocytosis, headache, transient hyperglycemia, hypermagnesemia, excessive weight gain, edematous swelling of ankles or wrists, dysgeusia/taste distortion (e.g., metallic or salty taste), thirst, swollen lips, tightness in chest, swollen and/or painful joints, fever, polyarthralgia, and dental caries.

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

7.1 Drugs Having Clinically Important Interactions with Lithium

Table 4: Clinically Important Drug Interactions with Lithium

Diuretics	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Diuretic-induced sodium loss may reduce lithium clearance and increase serum lithium concentrations.
<i>Intervention:</i>	More frequent monitoring of serum electrolyte and lithium concentrations. Reduce lithium dosage based on serum lithium concentration and clinical response [see <i>Dosage and Administration (2.3)</i> , <i>Warning and Precautions (5.3)</i>].
<i>Examples:</i>	hydrochlorothiazide, chlorothiazide, furosemide
Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAID)	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	NSAID decrease renal blood flow, resulting in decreased renal clearance and increased serum lithium concentrations.
<i>Intervention:</i>	More frequent serum lithium concentration monitoring. Reduce lithium dosage based on serum lithium concentration and clinical response [see <i>Dosage and Administration (2.3)</i>].
<i>Examples:</i>	indomethacin, ibuprofen, naproxen
Renin-Angiotensin System Antagonists	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Concomitant use increase steady-state serum lithium concentrations.
<i>Intervention:</i>	More frequent monitoring of serum lithium concentration. Reduce lithium dosage based on serum lithium concentration and clinical response [see <i>Dosage and Administration (2.3)</i>].
<i>Examples:</i>	lisinopril, enalapril, captopril, valsartan
Serotonergic Drugs	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Concomitant use can precipitate serotonin syndrome.
<i>Intervention:</i>	Monitor patients for signs and symptoms of serotonin syndrome, particularly during lithium initiation. If serotonin syndrome occurs, consider discontinuation of lithium and/or concomitant serotonergic drugs [see <i>Warnings and Precautions (5.6)</i>].

<i>Examples:</i>	selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI), serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRI), monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI)
Nitroimidazole Antibiotics	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Concomitant use may increase serum lithium concentrations due to reduced renal clearance.
<i>Intervention:</i>	More frequent monitoring of serum lithium concentration. Reduce lithium dosage based on serum lithium concentration and clinical response [see <i>Dosage and Administration (2.3)</i>].
<i>Examples:</i>	metronidazole
Acetazolamide, Urea, Xanthine Preparations, Alkalinizing Agents	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Concomitant use can lower serum lithium concentrations by increasing urinary lithium excretion.
<i>Intervention:</i>	More frequent serum lithium concentration monitoring. Increase lithium dosage based on serum lithium concentration and clinical response [see <i>Dosage and Administration (2.3)</i>].
<i>Examples:</i>	acetazolamide, theophylline, sodium bicarbonate
Methyldopa, Phenytoin and Carbamazepine	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Concomitant use may increase risk of adverse reactions of these drugs
<i>Intervention:</i>	Monitor patients closely for adverse reactions of methyldopa, phenytoin, and carbamazepine.
Iodide Preparations	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Concomitant use may produce hypothyroidism.
<i>Intervention:</i>	Monitor patients for signs or symptoms of hypothyroidism [see <i>Warnings and Precautions (5.7)</i>].
<i>Examples:</i>	potassium iodide
Calcium Channel Blocking Agents (CCB)	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Concomitant use may increase the risk of neurologic adverse reactions in the form of ataxia, tremors, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and/or tinnitus.
<i>Intervention:</i>	Monitor for neurologic adverse reactions.
<i>Examples:</i>	diltiazem, nifedipine, verapamil
Atypical and Typical Antipsychotic Drugs	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Reports of neurotoxic reactions in patients treated with both lithium and an antipsychotic, ranging from extrapyramidal symptoms to neuroleptic malignant syndrome, as well as

	reports of an encephalopathic syndrome in few patients treated with concomitant therapy [see <i>Warnings and Precautions (5.5)</i>].
<i>Intervention:</i>	Monitor for neurologic adverse reactions.
<i>Examples:</i>	risperidone, haloperidol, thioridazine, fluphenazine, chlorpromazine, perphenazine, clozapine
Neuromuscular Blocking Agents	
<i>Clinical Impact:</i>	Lithium may prolong the effects of neuromuscular blocking agents.
<i>Intervention:</i>	Monitor for prolonged paralysis.
<i>Examples:</i>	succinylcholine, pancuronium

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Risk Summary

Lithium may cause harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Early voluntary reports to international birth registries suggested an increase in cardiovascular malformations, especially for Ebstein's anomaly, with first trimester use of lithium. Subsequent case-control and cohort studies indicate that the increased risk for cardiac malformations is likely to be small; however, the data are insufficient to establish a drug-associated risk. There are concerns for maternal and/or neonatal lithium toxicity during late pregnancy and the postpartum period [see *Clinical Considerations*]. Published animal developmental and toxicity studies in mice and rats report an increased incidence of fetal mortality, decreased fetal weight, increased fetal skeletal abnormalities, and cleft palate (mouse fetuses only) with oral doses of lithium that produced serum concentrations similar to the human therapeutic range. Other published animal studies report adverse effects on embryonic implantation in rats after lithium administration. Advise pregnant women of the potential risk to a fetus.

The background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population(s) is unknown. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2 to 4% and 15 to 20%, respectively.

Clinical Considerations

Dose Adjustments During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period: If the decision is made to continue lithium treatment during pregnancy, serum lithium concentrations should be monitored and the dosage adjusted during pregnancy. Two to three days prior to delivery, lithium dosage should be decreased or discontinued to reduce the risk of maternal and/or neonatal toxicity. Lithium may be restarted in the post-partum period at preconception doses in medically stable patients as long as serum lithium levels are closely monitored [see *Dosage and Administration (2.4)*, *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].

Fetal/Neonatal Adverse Reactions: Lithium toxicity may occur in neonates who were exposed to lithium in late pregnancy. A floppy baby syndrome including neurological, cardiac, and hepatic abnormalities that are similar to those seen with lithium toxicity in adults have been observed. Symptoms include hypotonia, respiratory distress syndrome, cyanosis, lethargy, feeding difficulties, depressed neonatal reflexes, neonatal depression, apnea, and bradycardia. Monitor neonates and provide supportive care until lithium is excreted and toxic signs disappear, which may take up to 14 days.

Consider fetal echocardiography between 16 and 20 weeks gestation in a woman with first trimester lithium exposure because of the potential increased risk of cardiac malformations.

8.2 Lactation

Risk Summary

Limited published data reports the presence of lithium carbonate in human milk with breast milk levels measured at 0.12 to 0.7 mEq or 40 to 45% of maternal plasma levels. Infants exposed to lithium during breastfeeding may have plasma levels that are 30 to 40% of maternal plasma levels. Signs and symptoms of lithium toxicity such as hypertonia, hypothermia, cyanosis, and ECG changes have been reported in some breastfed neonates and infants. Increased prolactin levels have been measured in lactating women, but the effects on milk production are not known. Breastfeeding is not recommended with maternal lithium use; however, if a woman chooses to breastfeed, the infant should be closely monitored for signs of lithium toxicity. Discontinue breastfeeding if a breastfed infant develops lithium toxicity.

Clinical Considerations

Consider regular monitoring of lithium levels and thyroid function in a breastfed infant.

8.4 Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of lithium for monotherapy treatment of acute manic or mixed episodes of bipolar I disorder and maintenance monotherapy of bipolar I disorder in pediatric patients ages 7 to 17 years of age have been established in an acute-phase clinical trial of 8 weeks in duration followed by a 28-week randomized withdrawal phase [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.1), *Adverse Reactions* (6.1), *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3), *Clinical Studies* (14)].

The safety and effectiveness of lithium has not been established in pediatric patients less than 7 years of age with bipolar I disorder.

8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of lithium carbonate tablets did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in response between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other treatment.

Lithium is known to be substantially excreted by the kidneys, and the risk of toxic reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection, and it may be useful to monitor renal function.

8.6 Renal Impairment

As lithium is eliminated primarily through the kidney, lithium renal clearance is decreased in patients with abnormal renal function, and the risk of lithium intoxication increases considerably in this setting. Lithium should not be used in severe renal insufficiency (creatinine clearance less than 30 mL/min evaluated by Cockcroft-Gault), especially if the condition requires adherence to a low-sodium diet [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.5)].

Start patients with mild to moderately impaired renal function (creatinine clearance 30 to 89 mL/min evaluated by Cockcroft-Gault) with lower doses of lithium and titrate slowly while frequently monitoring serum lithium concentrations and for signs of lithium toxicity [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.5)].

10 OVERDOSAGE

The toxic concentrations for lithium (≥ 1.5 mEq/L) are close to the therapeutic concentrations [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]. At lithium concentrations greater than 3 mEq/L, patients may progress to seizures, coma, and irreversible brain damage.

Treatment

For current information on the management of poisoning or overdosage, contact the National Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 or www.poisson.org.

No specific antidote for lithium poisoning is known. Mild symptoms of lithium toxicity can usually be treated by reduction in dose or cessation of the drug.

In severe cases of lithium poisoning, the goal of treatment is elimination of this ion from the patient. Administration of gastric lavage should be performed, but use of activated charcoal is not recommended as it does not significantly absorb lithium ions. Hemodialysis is the treatment of choice as it is an effective and rapid means of removing lithium in patients with severe toxicity. As an alternative option, urea, mannitol and aminophylline can induce a significant increase in lithium excretion. Appropriate supportive care for the patient should be undertaken: Patients with impaired consciousness should have their airway protected and it is critical to correct any volume depletion or electrolyte imbalance. Patients should be monitored to prevent hypernatremia while receiving normal saline and careful regulation of kidney function is of utmost importance.

Serum lithium concentrations should be closely monitored as there may be a rebound in serum lithium concentrations as a result of delayed diffusion from the body tissues. Likewise, during the late recovery phase, lithium should be re-administered with caution taking into account the possible release of significant lithium stores in body tissues.

11 DESCRIPTION

Each **tablet** for oral administration contains lithium carbonate USP, 300 mg and the following inactive ingredients: calcium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, purified water, sodium lauryl sulfate and sodium starch glycolate.

Each **capsule** for oral administration contains lithium carbonate USP, 150 mg, 300 mg or 600 mg and the following inactive ingredient: talc. The capsule shells contain black monogramming ink, FD&C Red No. 40 (300 mg and 600 mg only), gelatin and titanium dioxide. The black monogramming ink contains ammonium hydroxide, ethanol, iron oxide black, isopropyl alcohol, N-butyl alcohol, propylene glycol and shellac glaze.

Each 5 mL of **solution** for oral administration contains lithium ion (Li^+), 8 mEq (equivalent to amount of lithium in 300 mg of lithium carbonate), alcohol 0.3% v/v and the following other inactive ingredients: citric acid, purified water, raspberry blend, sodium benzoate and sorbitol solution.

Lithium Oral Solution is a palatable oral dosage form of lithium ion. It is prepared in solution from lithium hydroxide and citric acid in a ratio approximately di-lithium citrate.

Lithium is an element of the alkali-metal group with atomic number 3, atomic weight 6.94, and an emission line at 671 nm on the flame photometer.

The empirical formula for Lithium Citrate is $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Li}_3\text{O}_7$; molecular weight 209.93. Lithium acts as an antimanic.

Lithium Carbonate USP is a granular, white powder with molecular formula Li_2CO_3 and molecular weight 73.89.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

The mechanism of action of lithium as a mood stabilizing agent is unknown.

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Absorption

After oral administration, lithium is reported to be completely absorbed in the upper gastrointestinal tract. Peak serum concentrations (T_{max}) occur 0.25 to 3 hours after oral administration of immediate release preparations and 2 to 6 hours after sustained-release preparations.

Distribution

The distribution space of lithium approximates that of total body water, and the plasma protein binding is negligible. After equilibrium, the apparent volume of distribution is 0.7 to 1 L/kg.

Metabolism

Lithium is not metabolized.

Excretion

Lithium is primarily excreted in urine, proportionally to its serum concentration. Lithium is filtered by the glomerulus, and 80% is reabsorbed by passive diffusion in the proximal tubule. The elimination half-life of lithium is approximately 18 to 36 hours. Lithium excretion in feces is insignificant.

Specific Populations

Pediatric Use: A pharmacokinetic study of lithium was performed in 39 subjects with bipolar I disorder. Both apparent clearance and apparent volume of distribution increase as body weight increases. A lower dose in patients < 30 kg is necessary to achieve lithium exposures in pediatric patients similar to those observed in adults treated at recommended doses of lithium [see *Dosage and Administration (2.2)*]. The estimated plasma clearance was 0.59 L/h, 0.79 L/h and 1.17 L/h for pediatric patients weighing 20 kg, 30 kg and 50 kg, respectively.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenesis

There have been no long-term studies performed in animals to evaluate the carcinogenic potential of lithium.

Mutagenesis

There have been no adequate studies conducted to evaluate the mutagenic and genotoxic potential of lithium.

Impairment of Fertility

There have been no adequate studies performed in animals at current standards to evaluate the effect of lithium treatment on fertility. However, published studies in male mice and rats administered repeated daily dosing of lithium carbonate report adverse effects on male reproductive organs, decreased spermatogenesis and decreased testosterone levels.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

The safety and efficacy of lithium as a treatment for acute manic or mixed episodes of bipolar I disorder in pediatric patients (ages 7 to ≤ 18 years) was demonstrated in an 8-week, randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel group study (NCT01166425). In this study, 81 patients with a Young Mania Rating Scale (YMRS) score of 20 or more were

randomized to receive lithium or placebo in a 2:1 ratio. Patients weighing more than 30 kg started lithium at 300 mg three times daily (900 mg/day) and could increase their dose by 300 mg every 3 days. Patients weighing 20 to 30 kg started lithium at 300 mg twice daily (600 mg/day) and could increase their dose by 300 mg weekly. No patients weighing less than 20 kg were enrolled. Lithium (mean serum level 0.98 ± 0.47 mEq/L) was statistically significantly superior to placebo in decreasing acute mania or mixed states as measured by the YMRS (see Table 5).

In a 28-week randomized withdrawal analysis, 31 pediatric patients stabilized on lithium were assigned to either continue lithium or switch to placebo. The group receiving lithium demonstrated superiority to those receiving placebo in all-cause discontinuation (see Table 5).

Table 5: Primary Efficacy Results

Analysis	Treatment Group	Change From Baseline at Week 8 in YMRS Summary Score		
		N	Mean Baseline Score (SD)	LS Mean Change from Baseline (SE) Difference ^a (95% CI)
Acute Efficacy	Lithium:	53	29.5 (5.6)	-12.9 (3.1)
	Placebo:	28	30.0 (6.0)	-7.3 (3.1)

Analysis	Treatment Group ^b	All-cause Discontinuation	
		N	Number of Discontinued Subjects Hazard Ratio ^c (95% CI)
Randomized Withdrawal	Lithium	17	7 (41.2%)
	Placebo	14	11 (78.6%)

SD: standard deviation; SE: standard error; LS Mean: least-squares mean; CI: confidence interval.

^a Difference (drug minus placebo) in least-squares mean change from baseline.

^b Patients analyzed by received treatment.

^c Lithium to placebo.

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

Lithium Oral Solution USP, 8 mEq per 5 mL.

Lithium Oral Solution USP is supplied as a clear nearly colorless solution.

NDC 0054-3527-63: Bottle of 500 mL

Store and Dispense

Store at 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F); excursions permitted to 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F). [See USP Controlled Room Temperature.] Dispense in a tight, child-resistant container as defined in the USP/NF.

Lithium Carbonate Tablets USP

300 mg supplied as white to off-white, biconvex tablet, scored on one side with product identification “54 452” debossed on the other side.

NDC 0054-8528-25: 10x10 Unit-Dose
(For Institutional Use Only)

NDC 0054-4527-25: Bottle of 100 Tablets

NDC 0054-4527-31: Bottle of 1,000 Tablets

Lithium Carbonate Capsules USP

150 mg supplied as opaque white capsules imprinted with product identification “54 213” on both caps and bodies and containing a white powder.

NDC 0054-8526-25: 10x10 Unit-Dose
(For Institutional Use Only).

NDC 0054-2526-25: Bottle of 100 Capsules

300 mg supplied as opaque, light pink-colored capsules imprinted with product identification “54 463” on both caps and bodies and containing a white powder.

NDC 0054-8527-25: 10x10 Unit-Dose
(For Institutional Use Only).

NDC 0054-2527-25: Bottle of 100 Capsules

NDC 0054-2527-31: Bottle of 1,000 Capsules

600 mg supplied as gelatin capsules having opaque, light pink-colored caps with white bodies, imprinted with product identification “54 702” on both caps and bodies and containing a white powder.

NDC 0054-8531-25: 10x10 Unit-Dose
(For Institutional Use Only).

NDC 0054-2531-25: Bottle of 100 Capsules

Storage

Store at 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F); excursions permitted to 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F). [See USP Controlled Room Temperature.] Dispense in a tight, child-resistant container as defined in the USP/NF. PROTECT FROM MOISTURE.

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise the patient to read FDA-approved patient labeling (Medication Guide).

Dosage and Administration

Advise patients that lithium is a mood stabilizer, and should only be taken as directed. Emphasize the importance of compliance with the prescribed treatment and to not adjust the dose of lithium without first consulting their healthcare provider. Inform patients that they will need to have regular blood draws to determine if their dose of lithium is appropriate.

Instruct patients not to double the dose if a dose is missed, due to the complexity of individualized dosing and potential for lithium toxicity [see *Dosage and Administration* (2), *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].

Lithium Toxicity

Inform patients on adverse reactions related to lithium toxicity that require medical attention. Advise patients to discontinue lithium treatment and contact their healthcare provider if clinical signs of lithium toxicity such as diarrhea, vomiting, tremor, lack of muscle coordination, drowsiness, abnormal heart rhythm or muscular weakness occur [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].

Lithium-Induced Polyuria

Counsel patients on the adverse reactions related to lithium-induced polyuria, when to seek medical attention, and the importance of maintaining normal diet with salt and staying hydrated [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.2)].

Hyponatremia

Counsel patients on the adverse reactions of hyponatremia, when to seek medical attention, the importance of maintaining a normal diet including adequate salt intake and staying hydrated [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.3)]. Salt supplements and additional fluids may be required if excessive losses occur.

Serotonin Syndrome

Caution patients about the risk of serotonin syndrome, particularly with the concomitant use of lithium with other serotonergic drugs including SSRIs, SNRIs, triptans, tricyclic antidepressants, fentanyl, tramadol, tryptophan, buspirone, St. John's Wort, and with drugs that impair metabolism of serotonin (in particular, MAOIs, both those intended to treat psychiatric disorders and also others, such as linezolid) [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.6) and *Drug Interactions* (7)].

Drug Interactions

Advise patients that many drugs can interact with lithium and to inform their doctor and pharmacist if they are taking any over the counter medication, including herbal medication, or are started on a new prescription [see *Drug Interactions* (7)].

Somnolence

Tell patients that lithium may cause somnolence particularly when initiating treatment and to be cautious about operating vehicles or hazardous machinery, until they are reasonably certain that lithium treatment does not affect them adversely [see *Adverse Reactions* (6)].

Pregnancy

Advise pregnant women of the potential risk to a fetus and/or neonate [see *Use in Specific Populations* (8.1)].

Lactation

Advise women that breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment with lithium [see *Use in Specific Populations* (8.2)].

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MEDICATION GUIDE

Lithium (LITH-ee-əm) oral solution

Lithium Carbonate tablets

Lithium Carbonate capsules

What is the most important information I should know about Lithium and Lithium Carbonate?

Lithium and Lithium Carbonate can cause serious side effects, including:

- **too much lithium in your blood (lithium toxicity).** Lithium toxicity that can cause death may happen even if the lithium level in your blood is close to the right level for you. Your healthcare provider will need to monitor your blood levels of lithium to find the best dose for you. Take your Lithium or Lithium Carbonate exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. **Stop taking Lithium and Lithium Carbonate and call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of lithium toxicity including:**

- abnormal heartbeat
- weak muscles
- muscle twitching
- vomiting
- blurred vision
- diarrhea
- clumsiness
- drowsiness
- ringing in your ears

Other symptoms may include:

- lightheadedness
- bloating
- slurred speech
- seizure
- confusion
- mood changes
- breathing problems
- coma

What is Lithium and Lithium Carbonate?

Lithium and Lithium Carbonate are prescription medicines called mood-stabilizing agents used alone (monotherapy) for:

- the acute (short-term) treatment of people 7 years of age and older with manic and mixed episodes that happen with bipolar I disorder.
- maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder in people 7 years of age and older.

It is not known if Lithium and Lithium Carbonate are safe and effective in children under 7 years of age with bipolar I disorder.

Who should not take Lithium or Lithium Carbonate?

Do not take Lithium or Lithium Carbonate if you are allergic to Lithium or any of the ingredients in Lithium Carbonate or Lithium Citrate. See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in Lithium and Lithium Carbonate.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking Lithium or Lithium Carbonate?

Before taking Lithium or Lithium Carbonate, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have kidney problems
- have heart problems
- have breathing problems
- have thyroid problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Lithium and Lithium Carbonate may harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Lithium and Lithium Carbonate can pass into your breastmilk and may harm your baby. You should not breastfeed during treatment with Lithium or Lithium Carbonate. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby if you take Lithium or Lithium Carbonate.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Using Lithium and Lithium Carbonate with certain other medicines may affect each other causing possible side effects. Lithium and Lithium Carbonate may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how Lithium and Lithium Carbonate works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- MAOIs
- serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs)
- tricyclic antidepressants
- antipsychotic medicines
- tryptophan
- St John's Wort
- selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)
- medicines used to treat migraine headaches called triptans
- fentanyl
- tramadol
- buspirone

Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take Lithium or Lithium Carbonate with your other medicines. **Do not** start or stop any medicines while taking Lithium or Lithium Carbonate without talking to your healthcare provider first. Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take Lithium and Lithium Carbonate?

- Take your Lithium and Lithium Carbonate exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider.
- Your healthcare provider will do certain blood tests before starting and during treatment with Lithium and Lithium Carbonate.
- Your healthcare provider may change your dose if needed. **Do not** change your dose on your own.
- **Do not** double your dose if a dose is missed. Talk with your healthcare provider if you miss a dose.
- **Do not** stop taking Lithium or Lithium Carbonate suddenly without talking to your healthcare provider.
- Your healthcare provider may change your Lithium or Lithium Carbonate dose to make sure you are taking the dose that is right for you.
- If you take too much Lithium or Lithium Carbonate, call your healthcare provider or poison control center, or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away. In case of poisoning, call your poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while taking Lithium or Lithium Carbonate?

- **Do not** drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities when you start taking Lithium or Lithium Carbonate, when your dose is changed, or until you know how Lithium or Lithium Carbonate affects you. Lithium or Lithium Carbonate can make you sleepy. Talk to your healthcare provider about these activities.
- Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated during exercise and in hot weather. Follow your healthcare provider instructions about the type and amount of liquids you should drink. In some cases, drinking too much liquid can be as unsafe as not drinking enough.
- **Do not** change the amount of salt in your diet. Changing the amount of salt in your diet could change the amount of Lithium or Lithium Carbonate in your blood.

What are the possible side effects of Lithium and Lithium Carbonate?

See “What is the most important information I should know about Lithium and Lithium Carbonate?”

Lithium and Lithium Carbonate may cause serious side effects, including:

- **kidney problems.** People who take Lithium or Lithium Carbonate may have to urinate often (polyuria) and have other kidney problems that may affect how their kidneys work. These problems can happen within a few weeks of starting to take Lithium or Lithium Carbonate or after taking Lithium or Lithium Carbonate for a long time.
- **low levels of sodium (salt) in your blood (hyponatremia).** Lithium and Lithium Carbonate can cause you to lose sodium. Talk to your healthcare provider about your diet and how much fluid you are drinking when starting Lithium or Lithium Carbonate. If you have been sweating more than usual or have had diarrhea, you may need extra salt and more fluids. Talk to your healthcare provider if this happens.
- **neurological problems.** People who take Lithium or Lithium Carbonate with certain other medicines called antipsychotics may have symptoms such as weakness, tiredness, fever, tremors, and confusion. Talk to your healthcare provider if this happens. Ask if you are not sure about the medicines you take.
- **serotonin syndrome.** A potentially life-threatening problem called serotonin syndrome can happen when you take Lithium or Lithium Carbonate while you take certain medicines called serotonergic and MAOIs. Symptoms of serotonin syndrome include:
 - agitation
 - seeing things that are not there
 - confusion
 - coma
 - rapid pulse
 - high or low blood pressure
 - dizziness
 - sweating
 - flushing
 - fever
 - tremors
 - stiff muscles
 - muscle twitching
 - become unstable
 - seizures
 - nausea
 - vomiting
 - diarrhea
- **thyroid problems.**
- **high calcium levels in your blood (hypercalcemia) and changes in your parathyroid gland (hyperparathyroidism)** that may not go away when you stop taking Lithium or Lithium Carbonate.
- **heart problems.** People who take Lithium or Lithium Carbonate may find out they also have a heart problem called Brugada Syndrome. People who have unexplained fainting or who have a family history of sudden unexplained

death before 45 years of age may have Brugada Syndrome and not know it. If you faint or feel abnormal heartbeats, talk to your healthcare provider right away.

- **increased pressure in the brain and swelling in the eye (pseudotumor cerebri)** that can cause vision problems or blindness. If you have severe headaches behind your eyes, ringing in the ears, blurred vision, double vision, or brief periods of blindness, talk to your health care provider right away.

The most common side effects of Lithium and Lithium Carbonate, include:

- Adults with manic or mixed episodes of bipolar I disorder:
 - hand trembling
 - excessive urination
 - increased thirst
 - nausea
 - general discomfort when you start treatment
- Children 7 to 17 years of age with manic or mixed episodes of bipolar I disorder:
 - excessive urination
 - thyroid problems
 - hand trembling
 - excessive thirst
 - dizziness
 - rash
 - difficulty walking
 - decreased appetite
 - blurred vision
 - nausea
 - vomiting

These are not all the possible side effects of Lithium and Lithium Carbonate.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store Lithium and Lithium Carbonate?

Store Lithium and Lithium Carbonate at room temperature, between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Keep capsules and tablets dry and keep in a tightly closed container.

Keep Lithium, Lithium Carbonate, and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the safe and effective use of Lithium and Lithium Carbonate.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use Lithium or Lithium Carbonate for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give Lithium or Lithium Carbonate to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about Lithium or Lithium Carbonate that is written for healthcare professionals.

For more information about Lithium and Lithium Carbonate, please call West-Ward Pharmaceuticals Corp. at 1-800-962-8364.

What are the ingredients in Lithium and Lithium Carbonate?

Active ingredient: lithium carbonate, USP (tablets and capsules) and lithium citrate (oral solution).

Inactive ingredients:

Tablets: calcium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, purified water, sodium lauryl sulfate, and sodium starch glycolate.

Capsules: talc. The capsule shells contain black monogramming ink, FD&C Red No. 40 (300 mg and 600 mg only), gelatin and titanium dioxide. The black monogramming ink contains ammonium hydroxide, ethanol, iron oxide black, isopropyl alcohol, N-butyl alcohol, propylene glycol and shellac glaze.

Oral solution: alcohol 0.3%, citric acid, purified water, raspberry blend, sodium benzoate and sorbitol solution.

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