

## **PREGABALIN (LYRICA)**

Pregabalin is FDA approved for management of neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia; adjunctive therapy for adult patients with partial onset seizures. Pregabalin is useful in treatment of chronic neuropathic pain.

Pregabalin comes in 25 to 200 mg tablets. The maximum recommended dose of pregabalin is 100 mg three times a day (300 mg/day) in patients with creatinine clearance of at least 60 mL/min. The dose can vary depending on how well it works for you and your tolerance of the medication.

You should start with 50 mg three times a day (150 mg/day) and may increase to 300 mg/day within 1 week based on efficacy and tolerability. Because pregabalin is eliminated primarily by renal excretion, the dose should be adjusted for patients with reduced renal function.

If you find a dosage level that is satisfactory, there is no reason to increase the medication. If, after you have increased the medication, you find that the previous -- that is, lower--dose was just as effective, it would be better to use the lower dose.

No monitoring is needed while taking pregabalin.

More information can be found at [www.lyrica.com](http://www.lyrica.com)

### **PREGABALIN (By mouth) Pregabalin (pre-GAB-a-lin)**

**Treats nerve pain caused by diabetes or herpes zoster (shingles). Also treats partial onset seizures in adults.**

#### **Brand Name(s): Lyrica**

There may be other brand names for this medicine.

#### **When This Medicine Should Not Be Used:**

You should not use this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to pregabalin.

#### **How to Use This Medicine:**

##### **Capsule**

- Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use and how often. Do not use more medicine or use it more often than your doctor tells you to.
- This medicine is sometimes taken twice daily and sometimes three times daily. Your dose of this medicine will depend on the condition you are treating. Carefully follow your doctor's instructions for taking the medicine.
- This medicine comes with patient instructions. Read and follow these instructions carefully. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

**If a dose is missed:**

- If you miss a dose or forget to use your medicine, use it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to use the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

**How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine:**

- Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.
- Ask your pharmacist, doctor, or health caregiver about the best way to dispose of any outdated medicine or medicine no longer needed.
- Keep all medicine away from children and never share your medicine with anyone.

**Drugs and Foods to Avoid:**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.**

- Make sure your doctor knows if you are also using diabetes medicine that you take by mouth, such as Actos® or Avandia®.
- Tell your doctor if you are using any medicines that make you sleepy. These include sleeping pills, cold and allergy medicine, narcotic pain relievers, and sedatives.
- Do not drink alcohol while you are using this medicine.

**Warnings While Using This Medicine:**

- Make sure your doctor knows if you are pregnant or breast feeding. Tell your doctor if you have congestive heart failure or other heart conditions, kidney disease, a bleeding disorder, or if you are on dialysis.
- This medicine may cause birth defects if the father is using it when his sexual partner becomes pregnant. If a pregnancy occurs while you are using this medicine, tell your doctor right away.
- Unless you are using this medicine to treat diabetic neuropathy, make sure your doctor knows if you have diabetes. Check your skin regularly for changes or new skin ulcers.
- This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid driving, using machines, or doing anything else that could be dangerous if you are not alert.
- Do not stop using this medicine suddenly without asking your doctor. You may need to slowly decrease your dose before stopping it completely.

**Possible Side Effects While Using This Medicine:****Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:**

- Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing.
- Blurred vision.
- Chest pain.
- Confusion, trouble concentrating, unusual thoughts or behavior.
- Fever, chills, cough, sore throat, and body aches.
- Muscle pain, soreness, or weakness with fever and fatigue.
- Rapid weight gain, swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet.
- Problems with balance or walking.
- Twitching or muscle movements you cannot control.

- Unusual bleeding or bruising.

**If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:**

- Dry mouth.
- Joint pain.
- Problems with sex, loss of interest in sex.
- Mild skin rash or itching.
- Numbness or tingling feeling.
- Stomach pain, increased appetite.

**If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.**

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