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## Department of Neurosciences

# Pregabalin drug information

### Drug brand name

- Pregabalin
- Lyrica

### Uses

Pregabalin is one of the newer antiepileptic drugs introduced in the UK in the last three years. It is prescribed in combination with other antiepileptic drugs to reduce seizure frequency and severity. It is available in 25mg, 50mg, 75mg, 150mg and 300mg capsules. The variety of capsules makes it easy to make dose adjustments when the medication is being introduced. Pregabalin is also used to treat certain types of pain.

### Side effects

The most common side effects are:

- Dizziness
- Sleepiness
- Decreased concentration

Others include:

- Increased appetite and weight gain
- Constipation
- Dry mouth
- Vomiting

Sometimes a person may experience confusion, irritability, disturbance in attention or feeling drunk. In the event of any of these side effects, contact the epilepsy nurse (contact number at the end of the leaflet) or your GP.

### Contraception

There is no interaction between Pregabalin and the oral contraceptive pill. However you should always ensure that effective contraception is used. This includes barrier methods (such as condoms), contraceptive implants, and intra uterine device (coil) etc.

## Pregnancy

If you are taking any anti-epileptic drug, you should ask to see your specialist and discuss the best preparations and doses before you conceive. Once you are already pregnant it is too late to make these changes. The risks to your baby from Pregabalin are unknown, as it is a new drug. We recommend you take folic acid 5mg daily from at least eight weeks prior to conception until at least 13 weeks of pregnancy.

## Drug interactions

Pregabalin is not known to interact with other medication. Inform your doctor about all the medication you may be taking before you start taking Pregabalin and those which you are required to take after you start taking Pregabalin.

## Other useful information

- You can take Pregabalin with or without food.
- Avoid taking alcohol with your medication.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you remember less than four hours from the next dose, do not take your missed dose but carry on with the next one and return to your normal dosing pattern.
- Do not stop taking Pregabalin without consultation with your doctor. Slow withdrawal is advisable as a rapid stop in medicating can result in withdrawal seizures.
- Keep a record of your seizures when you start taking new medication. This will help determine future drug dosages.

## Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the epilepsy nurse specialist on 01223 217992.

**The information on this leaflet is not exhaustive. Please refer to the patient information leaflet prepared by the manufacturer of your drug which can be found in the medicine packaging.**



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

### Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Arabic

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال بمعلومات المريض على الرقم: 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Cantonese

如您需以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasinlar: 01223 216032 veya [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کرنے کی درخواست کریں: 01223 216032 یا [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Bengali

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পেতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk) ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

### Document history

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