

PREGABALIN



Other names

Lyrica

Drug category

Alpha-2-delta VGCC subunit ligand

Uses

Pregabalin is used for epilepsy, headaches, anxiety and neuropathic (nerve-related) pain.

Available forms (Schedule 3 controlled drug)

Capsule (25/50/75/100/150/200/225/300 mg), solution (20 mg/ml)

It can only be prescribed for 30 days maximum

Some potential side-effects (inform your doctor if you think you have a serious side-effect)

Drowsiness, dizziness, unsteadiness, fatigue, weight gain, nausea, altered bowel habit, withdrawal symptoms, depression, risk of misuse or dependence, tremor, viral infections

Not to be used if:

Respiratory disease (risk of respiratory depression)

Drinking alcohol or taking opioids (risk of respiratory depression)

Drug abuse (risk of dependence)

Kidney disease (300mg daily if eGFR <60ml/min, 150 if <30, 75 if <15)

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

No interaction with hormonal contraception. Should avoid in pregnancy as effect unknown and may increase risk of birth defects. Avoid during breastfeeding (present in milk).

Interactions with other drugs

Avoid with opioids and alcohol.

Monitoring

Monitor for pregabalin abuse (see side-effects above, withdrawal symptoms)

How to use it

Day	Morning dose	Evening dose	
Start date	Nil	50mg	
1 week later	50mg	50mg	
2 weeks later	50mg	100mg	
3 weeks later	100mg	100mg	
4 weeks later	100mg	150mg	
5 weeks later	150mg	150mg	
6 weeks later	Continue same dose		

If 150mg twice a day does not help and you have no side-effects, then it can be increased to a higher dose, and this can be done by adding 100mg every 2 weeks but the maximum dose should be no more than 600mg in a day (300mg twice a day). If reducing it, do this in steps of 50mg every week until stopped.

Stop and seek medical attention if breathing difficulties or a rash occur on using the drug.

This information is for guidance only. Always read the medicine information leaflet with any new medicine for full details.