PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Pregabalin

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US

Lyrica; Lyrica CR

Brand Names: Canada

ACH-Pregabalin; AG-Pregabalin; APO-Pregabalin; Auro-Pregabalin; BIO-Pregabalin; DOM-Pregabalin [DSC]; JAMP-Pregabalin; Lyrica; M-Pregabalin; Mar-Pregabalin; MINT-Pregabalin; NAT-Pregabalin; NB-Pregabalin; NRA-Pregabalin; PMS-Pregabalin; RIVA-Pregabalin; SANDOZ Pregabalin; TARO-Pregabalin; TEVA-Pregabalin

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to help control certain kinds of seizures.
- It is used to treat painful nerve diseases.
- It is used to treat fibromyalgia.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have kidney disease.

- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert or have clear eyesight until you see how this drug affects you.
- If seizures are different or worse after starting this drug, talk with the doctor.
- Do not stop taking this drug all of a sudden. You may have a risk of side effects, including upset stomach, diarrhea, headache, trouble sleeping, anxiety, depression, thoughts of suicide, and others. Seizures may also happen more often in patients who were taking this drug for seizures. If you need to stop this drug, talk first with your doctor. You will need to slowly stop it as ordered by your doctor.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking this drug.
- Talk with your doctor before you use marijuana, other forms of cannabis, or prescription or OTC drugs that may slow your actions.
- Severe breathing problems have happened with this drug in people taking certain other drugs (like opioid pain drugs). This has also happened in people who already have lung or breathing problems. The risk may also be greater in people who are older than 65. Sometimes, breathing problems have been deadly. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side

effects.

- Talk with your doctor if you plan to father a child. This drug made male animals less fertile and caused sperm changes. Birth defects also happened in the young of male animals treated with this drug. It is not known if these problems happen in humans.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this drug while you are pregnant.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Change in eyesight.
- Muscle pain or weakness.
- Change in balance.
- Feeling confused.
- Shakiness.
- Trouble breathing, slow breathing, or shallow breathing.
- Blue or gray color of the skin, lips, nail beds, fingers, or toes.
- Memory problems or loss.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Fever, chills, or sore throat.

- Skin sores.
- Any skin change.
- Trouble speaking.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Trouble walking.
- Feeling high (easy laughing and feeling good).
- Twitching.
- Get medical help right away if you feel very sleepy, very dizzy, or if you pass out. Caregivers or others need to get medical help right away if the patient does not respond, does not answer or react like normal, or will not wake up.
- A very bad reaction called angioedema has happened with this drug. Sometimes, this may be life-threatening. Signs may include swelling of the hands, face, lips, eyes, tongue, or throat; trouble breathing; trouble swallowing; or unusual hoarseness. Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs.
- Like other drugs that may be used for seizures, this drug may rarely raise the risk of suicidal thoughts or actions. This has also been reported even after the drug was stopped. The risk may be higher in people who have had suicidal thoughts or actions in the past. Call the doctor right away about any new or worse signs like depression; feeling nervous, restless, or grouchy; panic attacks; or other changes in mood or behavior. Call the doctor right away if any suicidal thoughts or actions occur.
- Low platelet counts have rarely happened with this drug. This may lead to a higher chance of bleeding. Call your doctor right away if you have any unexplained bruising or bleeding.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Weight gain.
- Not able to focus.
- Headache.
- Dry mouth.
- Constipation.
- Increased appetite.
- Upset stomach.
- Joint pain.
- Nose or throat irritation.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

Extended-release tablets:

- Take after the evening meal if taking once daily.
- Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

Capsules and oral solution:

- Take with or without food.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

Oral solution:

- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

Extended-release tablets:

- Take a missed dose just before bedtime after eating a snack or after the next day's morning meal.
- If you miss taking the missed dose after the next day's morning meal, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

Capsules and oral solution:

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store in the original container at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Store this drug in a safe place where children cannot see or reach it, and where other people cannot get to it. A locked box or area may help keep this drug safe. Keep all drugs away from pets.

- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- This drug comes with an extra patient fact sheet called a Medication Guide. Read it with care. Read it again each time this drug is refilled. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with the doctor, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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