



Lyrica

Lyrica (generic name pregabalin) is the first FDA-approved medicine for the treatment of fibromyalgia. Lyrica is also used to help relieve nerve pain or seizures. Lyrica (pregabalin) is chemically similar to the drug Neurontin (gabapentin).

Exactly how Lyrica works is unknown. Fibromyalgia symptoms have been linked to changes in the brain that influence how people feel pain.

Pregabalin binds to calcium channels on nerves and may modify the release of neurotransmitters that nerves use to communicate with each other. Reducing communication between nerves may contribute to pregabalin's effect on pain and seizures.

Dosing

Pregabalin may be administered with or without food.

The initial dose for neuropathic pain is 50 mg three times a day.

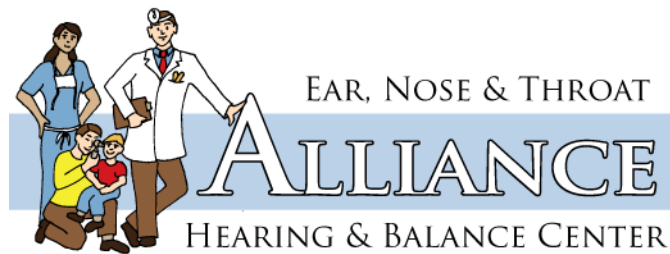
The dose may be increased as high as 100 mg three times daily after one week.

If a dose of Lyrica is missed and it's almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose. Two doses of Lyrica should not be taken together. Patients should continue taking the drug even after experiencing pain relief.

Common side effects

- dizziness
- sleepiness/drowsiness
- dry mouth
- edema (swelling)
- blurred vision
- weight gain
- swelling of hands and feet
- constipation
- exaggerated feeling of happiness or wellness
- balance disorder
- increased appetite
- difficulty with concentration/attention

Because of the possibility of dizziness or drowsiness, the drug may impair one's ability to drive or operate complex machinery.



Warnings

Some patients reported allergic reactions to Lyrica, including swelling of the face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue, and neck. Others experienced trouble breathing, rash, hives, and blisters. If any of these symptoms occur, patients should stop taking Lyrica immediately and seek medical care.

Patients should report unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness to their doctors, especially if associated with fever and malaise (reduced well-being). Increased creatinine kinase could be a sign of muscle injury, and in clinical trials three patients experienced rhabdomyolysis (severe muscle injury).

Drug interactions

- alcohol
- antihistamines
- barbiturates
- Parkinson's disease medications, such as entacapone (Stalevo) or tolcapone (Tasmar)
- diabetes medications, such as pioglitazone (Actos) or rosiglitazone (Avandia)
- medicines used to help you sleep or relax, such as lorazepam (Ativan), alprazolam (Xanax), or diazepam (Valium)
- pain medications, such as morphine (MS Contin) or codeine
- phenothiazines used for certain mental disorders or for nausea/vomiting, such as prochlorperazine (Compazine) or thioridazine (Mellaril)

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

The effects of Lyrica are unknown.