

Lyrica®

Generic name: pregabalin, pronounced (*LEER- i- kah*)

Manufacturer: Pfizer

Uses: treatment of add-on therapy for adult patients with partial onset seizures

How it works: It is unclear exactly how Lyrica® works. It may work by attaching to part of some “over-firing” nerve cells. This is thought to help reduce the excessive activity that can cause seizures. It is well absorbed when taken by mouth. You can take it with or without food. It is eliminated from the body mostly by the kidneys and has an elimination half-life of about 6 hours.

Forms of the medicine:

Lyrica® is available in eight dosage strengths; 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 225, and 300-milligram capsules.

Dosing: Lyrica® is given by mouth. It is given twice or three times per day. Dosing amounts and frequency of dosing will be decided by the treating physician. Dosing will usually start with about 150 milligrams per day and will likely be increased over time.

Side Effects: The most common side effects of Lyrica® are dizziness, blurry vision, weight gain, sleepiness, trouble concentrating, swelling of hands and feet and dry mouth.

Information for Pregnant women and nursing mothers: Safety in pregnancy has not been established. It is known that women taking antiepileptic drugs have a higher incidence of birth defects than women who are not. Women who are taking this medication and who wish to become pregnant should discuss treatment options with their physicians before the pregnancy begins. It is not currently known if Lyrica® is passed into breast milk.

Drug Interactions: Lyrica® is not affected by other antiepileptic drugs and should not affect the concentrations of other drugs.

Care during treatment with Lyrica®: You should take the medicine as prescribed by your physician. If you miss a dose by a few hours, take it as soon as you remember. If it is close to your next dose, take Lyrica® at your next regular time. Do not take two doses at the same time. Report any unusual rashes or other side effects. As a rule, antiepileptic drugs should not be abruptly discontinued because of the possibility of increasing seizure frequency.

Possible Contraindications to the use of Lyrica®: A history of an allergic reaction to pregabalin