

Pregabalin

(Pre – ga – ba – lin)

How this medication is used

Pregabalin is also known as Lyrica[®]. It is used to treat chronic pain, including the muscle pain from fibromyalgia and certain types of nerve pain.

Reminders

- Tell your doctor if you have any kidney problems, if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Tell your doctor if you are taking morphine, anti-convulsant medicine or any medications that make you sleepy.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. It must be taken regularly, even if you feel well.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and take at your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

Do not stop this medication without talking to your doctor first. Sudden stopping of this medication can cause severe headache, poor sleep, nausea, agitation and seizures. When it is time to stop taking this medication your doctor may slowly decrease the amount you take.

You may not have pain relief when you first start taking Pregabalin. Do not give up. Continue with it until you meet with the doctor. Talk with your pharmacist if you have any questions about taking Pregabalin.

While taking this medication you may notice

- **Nausea or upset stomach.** Take with food.
- **Dizziness.** Get up slowly when you have been sitting or lying down. If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you are no longer dizzy, then get up slowly.
- **Drowsiness.** Until you know how it affects you, do not drive or operate machinery.
- **Increased effects of alcohol.** Making you more sleepy, dizzy and lightheaded. Do not drink alcohol (wine, beer and liquor) while on this medication.
- **Swelling of feet or lower legs** (call your doctor if this becomes severe).
- **Weight gain.**

Contact your doctor or seek medical help if you notice

- change in coordination – clumsy and awkward movements
- mood or mental changes unusual for you
- fatigue or feeling very tired
- shaking
- changes in eyesight or blurred vision
- vertigo – a feeling that you are spinning