

The Carlat Psychiatry Report

LYRICA (pregabalin) Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: Pfizer

Indications:

- Diabetic neuropathic pain, post-herpetic neuralgia, and adjunctive treatment of epilepsy.
- Approved for generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) in Europe as of March 2006.

Mechanism: Enhances presynaptic release of GABA; close chemical cousin of Neurontin (gabapentin).

Dosing:

- Supplied in 25 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, 225 mg, and 300 mg capsules.
- Dosing recommendations based on controlled trials for GAD: Start at around 100 mg BID and increase as tolerated to a maximum of 300 mg BID.
- No dose adjustment required in liver impairment. Reduce dose in patients with renal impairment and in elderly with some degree of renal impairment.

Side Effects:

- High rates of dizziness (about 30%) and sedation (22%).
- Other common side effects: blurred vision, weight gain of about 5 pounds, peripheral edema, and impaired concentration/attention.
- Has some limited abuse liability and is a Schedule V controlled substance (in the same category as cough suppressants containing codeine). Can cause a withdrawal syndrome of nausea, insomnia and headache if not gradually tapered.

Drug-drug Interactions:

- No drug-drug interactions.
- Not metabolized by the liver, is excreted unchanged by the kidney.

Pearls:

- Half-life 6 hours.