

Package leaflet: Information for the user

<Product name> 75 mg hard capsules
<Product name> 150 mg hard capsules
<Product name> 300 mg hard capsules
Pregabalin

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What <Product name> is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take <Product name>
3. How to take <Product name>
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store <Product name>
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What <product name> is and what it is used for

<Product name> belongs to a group of medicines used to treat epilepsy, neuropathic pain and Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) in adults.

Peripheral and central neuropathic pain: <Product name> is used to treat long lasting pain caused by damage to the nerves. A variety of diseases can cause peripheral neuropathic pain, such as diabetes or shingles. Pain sensations may be described as hot, burning, throbbing, shooting, stabbing, sharp, cramping, aching, tingling, numbness, pins and needles. Peripheral and central neuropathic pain may also be associated with mood changes, sleep disturbance, fatigue (tiredness), and can have an impact on physical and social functioning and overall quality of life.

Epilepsy: <Product name> is used to treat a certain form of epilepsy (partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation) in adults. Your doctor will prescribe <Product name> for you to help treat your epilepsy when your current treatment is not controlling your condition. You should take <Product name> in addition to your current treatment. <Product name> is not intended to be used alone, but should always be used in combination with other anti-epileptic treatment.

Generalised Anxiety Disorder: <Product name> is used to treat Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD). The symptoms of GAD are prolonged excessive anxiety and worry that are difficult to control. GAD can also cause restlessness or feeling keyed up or on edge, being easily fatigued (tired), having difficulty concentrating or mind going blank, feeling irritable, having muscle tension or sleep disturbance. This is different to the stresses and strains of everyday life.

2. What you need to know before you take <product name>

Do not take <Product name>

If you are allergic to pregabalin or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

Warnings and Precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking <Product name>

- Some patients taking this medicine have reported symptoms suggesting an allergic reaction. These symptoms include swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and throat, as well as diffuse skin rash. Should you experience any of these reactions, you should contact your physician immediately.
- <Product name> has been associated with dizziness and somnolence, which could increase the occurrence of accidental injury (fall) in elderly patients. Therefore, you should be careful until you are used to any effect the medicine might have.
- <Product name> may cause blurring or loss of vision, or other changes in eyesight, many of which are temporary. You should immediately tell your doctor if you experience any changes in your vision.
- Some patients with diabetes who gain weight while taking pregabalin may need an alteration in their diabetic medicines.
- Certain side effects may be more common, such as sleepiness, because patients with spinal cord injury may be taking other medicines to treat, for example, pain or spasticity, that have similar side effects to pregabalin and the severity of these effects may be increased when taken together.
- There have been reports of heart failure in some patients when taking <Product name>; these patients were mostly elderly with cardiovascular conditions. **Before taking this medicine you should tell your doctor if you have a history of heart disease.**
- There have been reports of kidney failure in some patients when taking <Product name>. If while taking <Product name> you notice decreased urination, you should tell your doctor as stopping the medicine may improve this.
- A small number of people being treated with anti-epileptics such as <Product name> have had thoughts of harming or killing themselves. If at any time you have these thoughts, immediately contact your doctor.
- When <Product name> is taken with other medicines that may cause constipation (such as some types of pain medicines) it is possible that gastrointestinal problems may occur (e.g., constipation, blocked or paralysed bowel). Tell your doctor if you experience constipation, especially if you are prone to this problem.
- Before taking this medicine you should tell your doctor if you have a history of alcoholism or any drug abuse or dependence. Do not take more medicine than prescribed.
- There have been reports of convulsions when taking <Product name> or shortly after stopping <Product name>. If you experience a convulsion, contact your doctor immediately.
- There have been reports of reduction in brain function (encephalopathy) in some patients taking <Product name> when they have other conditions. Tell your doctor if you have a history of any serious medical conditions, including liver or kidney disease.

Children and adolescents

The safety and efficacy in children and adolescents (under 18 years of age) has not been established and therefore, pregabalin should not be used in this age group.

Other medicines and <Product name>

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

<Product name> and certain other medicines may influence each other (interaction). When taken with certain other medicines which have sedative effects (including opioids), <Product name> may potentiate these effects, and could lead to respiratory failure, coma and death. The degree of dizziness, sleepiness and decreased concentration may be increased if <Product name> is taken together with medicines containing:

- Oxycodone - (used as a pain-killer)
- Lorazepam - (used for treating anxiety)
- Alcohol

<Product name> may be taken with oral contraceptives.

<Product name> with food, drink and alcohol

<Product name> may be taken with or without food.

It is advised not to drink alcohol while taking <Product name>.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

<Product name> should not be taken during pregnancy or when breast-feeding, unless you are told otherwise by your doctor. Effective contraception must be used by women of child-bearing potential. If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines

<Product name> may produce dizziness, sleepiness and decreased concentration. You should not drive, operate complex machinery or engage in other potentially hazardous activities until you know whether this medicine affects your ability to perform these activities.

<Product name> contains sodium

This medicine contains less than 1mmol sodium (23mg) per <dosage unit><unit volume>, that is to say essentially 'sodium free'

3. How to take <Product name>

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Your doctor will determine what dose is appropriate for you.

<Product name> is for oral use only.

Peripheral and central neuropathic pain, epilepsy or Generalised Anxiety Disorder:

- Take the number of capsules as instructed by your doctor.
- The dose, which has been adjusted for you and your condition, will generally be between 150 mg and 600 mg each day.
- Your doctor will tell you to take <Product name> either twice or three times a day. For twice a day take this medicine once in the morning and once in the evening, at about the same time each day. For three times a day take this medicine once in the morning, once in the afternoon and once in the evening, at about the same time each day.

If you have the impression that the effect of this medicine is too strong or too weak, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

If you are an elderly patient (over 65 years of age), you should take <Product name> normally except if you have problems with your kidneys.

Your doctor may prescribe a different dosing schedule and/or dose if you have problems with your kidneys.

Swallow the capsule whole with water.

Continue taking <Product name> until your doctor tells you to stop.

If you take more <Product name> than you should

Call your doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency unit immediately. Take your box or bottle of this medicine with you. You may feel sleepy, confused, agitated, or restless as a result of taking more <Product name> than you should. Fits have also been reported.

If you forget to take <Product name>

It is important to take your medicine regularly at the same time each day. If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember unless it is time for your next dose. In that case, just carry on with the next dose as normal. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking <Product name>

Do not stop taking <Product name> unless your doctor tells you to. If your treatment is stopped it should be done gradually over a minimum of 1 week.

After stopping long and short-term <Product name> treatment, you need to know that you may experience certain side effects. These include, trouble sleeping, headache, nausea, feeling anxious, diarrhoea, flu-like symptoms, convulsions, nervousness, depression, pain, sweating, and dizziness. These symptoms may occur more commonly or severely if you have been taking this medicine for a longer period of time.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people

- Dizziness, drowsiness, headache

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- Increased appetite
- Feeling of elation, confusion, disorientation, decrease in sexual interest, irritability
- Disturbance in attention, clumsiness, memory impairment, loss of memory, tremor, difficulty with speaking, tingling feeling, numbness, sedation, lethargy, insomnia, fatigue, feeling abnormal
- Blurred vision, double vision
- Vertigo, problems with balance, fall
- Dry mouth, constipation, vomiting, flatulence, diarrhoea, nausea, swollen abdomen
- Difficulties with erection
- Swelling of the body including extremities
- Feeling drunk, abnormal style of walking
- Weight gain
- Muscle cramp, joint pain, back pain, pain in limb
- Sore throat

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- Loss of appetite, weight loss, low blood sugar, high blood sugar
- Change in perception of self, restlessness, depression, agitation, mood swings, difficulty finding words, hallucinations, abnormal dreams, panic attack, apathy, aggression, elevated mood, mental impairment, difficulty with thinking, increase in sexual interest, problems with sexual functioning including inability to achieve a sexual climax, delayed ejaculation
- Changes in eyesight, unusual eye movement, changes in vision including tunnel vision, flashes of light, jerky movements, reduced reflexes, increased activity, dizziness on standing, sensitive skin, loss of taste, burning sensation, tremor on movement, decreased consciousness, loss of consciousness, fainting, increased sensitivity to noise, feeling unwell
- Dry eyes, eye swelling, eye pain, weak eyes, watery eyes, eye irritation
- Heart rhythm disturbances, increased heart rate, low blood pressure, high blood pressure, changes in heartbeat, heart failure
- Flushing, hot flushes
- Difficulty breathing, dry nose, nasal congestion
- Increased saliva production, heartburn, numb around mouth
- Sweating, rash, chills, fever
- Muscle twitching, joint swelling, muscle stiffness, pain including muscle pain, neck pain
- Breast pain
- Difficulty with or painful urination, incontinence
- Weakness, thirst, chest tightness
- Changes in blood and liver test results (blood creatinine phosphokinase increased, alanine amino transferase increased, aspartate aminotransferase increased, platelet count decreased, neutropenia, increase in blood creatinine, decrease in blood potassium)
- Hypersensitivity, swollen face, itchiness, hives, runny nose, nose bleed, cough, snoring
- Painful menstrual periods
- Coldness of hands and feet

Rare: may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people

- Abnormal sense of smell, swinging vision, altered perception of depth, visual brightness, vision loss.
- Dilated pupils, cross eyes.
- Cold sweat, tightness of the throat, swollen tongue.
- Inflammation of the pancreas.
- Difficulty in swallowing.
- Slow or reduced movement of the body.
- Difficulty with writing properly.
- Increased fluid in the abdomen.
- Fluid in the lungs.
- Convulsions.
- Changes in the recording of electrical changes (ECG) in the heart which correspond to heart rhythm disturbances
- Muscle damage.
- Breast discharge, abnormal breast growth, breast growth in males.
- Interrupted menstrual periods.
- Kidney failure, reduced urine volume, urinary retention.
- Decrease in white blood cell count.
- Inappropriate behaviour.
- Allergic reactions (which may include difficulty breathing, inflammation of the eyes (keratitis) and a serious skin reaction characterized by rash, blisters, peeling skin and pain).
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)

Very rare: may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people

- Liver failure.
- Hepatitis (inflammation of the liver).

If you experience swollen face or tongue or if your skin turns red and starts to blister or peel, you should seek immediate medical advice.

Certain side effects may be more common, such as sleepiness, because patients with spinal cord injury may be taking other medicines to treat, for example, pain or spasticity, that have similar side effects to pregabalin and the severity of these effects may be increased when taken together.

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store <product name>

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton or bottle. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicine does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What <Product name> contains

The active substance is pregabalin.

Each hard capsule contains either 75 mg, 150 mg, 300 mg of pregabalin.

The other ingredients are: starch pregelatinised, talc (E553b), gelatin, titanium dioxide (E171), sodium laurilsulphate, black ink (which contains shellac, propylene glycol, iron oxide black (E172), and potassium hydroxide) and water.

The 75 mg and 300 mg capsules also contain iron oxide red (E172).

What <Product name> look like and contents of the pack	
75 mg capsules	Red opaque/White opaque, size “4” gelatin capsules, imprinted with ‘PG’ on cap and ‘75’ on body.
150 mg capsules	White opaque/White opaque, size “2” gelatin capsules, imprinted with ‘PG’ on cap and ‘150’ on body.
300 mg capsules	Red opaque/White opaque, size “0” gelatin capsules, imprinted with ‘PG’ on cap and ‘300’ on body.

This medicine is available in blister packs (PVC/Aluminium) containing 14, 21, 56, 60 or 84 capsules.

This medicine is also available in an HDPE bottle containing 30, 200 or 500 capsules.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

[to be completed nationally]

This medicinal product is authorised in the Member States of the EEA under the following names:

This leaflet was approved in

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency web site:
<http://www.ema.europa.eu>