

BTC PREGABALIN

contains the active ingredient pregabalin

Consumer Medicine Information

WARNING: Before taking BTC PREGABALIN, tell your doctor if you have a history of drug abuse. BTC PREGABALIN poses risks of misuse, abuse and dependence. Using BTC PREGABALIN with other medicines that can make you feel drowsy such as sleeping tablets and other pain relievers (e.g. benzodiazepines and opioids), antihistamines, antidepressants, antipsychotics, cannabis, and alcohol may result in severe drowsiness, decreased awareness, breathing problems, coma and death. If you have any concern about taking this medicine, speak to your doctor.

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about BTC PREGABALIN.

It does not contain all of the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have benefits and risks. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking BTC PREGABALIN against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.

What BTC PREGABALIN is used for

BTC PREGABALIN is used to treat neuropathic pain, which is pain caused by an abnormality of, or damage to, the nerves.

BTC PREGABALIN is also used to control epilepsy. Epilepsy is a condition where you have repeated seizures (fits). There are many different types of seizures, ranging from mild to severe.

BTC PREGABALIN belongs to a group of medicines called anticonvulsants.

These medicines are thought to work by controlling brain chemicals which send signals to nerves so that seizures do not happen.

BTC PREGABALIN also has pain relieving effects.

BTC PREGABALIN may be used alone, or in combination with other medicines, to treat your condition.

Your doctor may prescribe BTC PREGABALIN in addition to your current therapy when your current treatment is no longer working as well as before.

Your doctor, however, may use BTC PREGABALIN for another purpose.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why it has been given to you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Use in children

There is not enough information to recommend the use of this medicine in children under the age of 18 years.

Before you take BTC PREGABALIN

When you must not be take it

Do not take BTC PREGABALIN if you are allergic to pregabalin or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips or tongue which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing, wheezing or shortness of breath.

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack.

If you receive it after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

Do not receive it if the package is damaged or shows signs of tampering.

Before you are start to take it

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to:

- any other medicines, especially barbiturates or any other anticonvulsant medicine
- any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

BTC PREGABALIN is not recommended to be used during pregnancy. However, if you have epilepsy, it is very important to control your fits while you are pregnant. If it is necessary for you to take BTC PREGABALIN, your doctor can help you decide whether or not to take it during pregnancy.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed.

It is recommended that you do not breast-feed while taking BTC PREGABALIN, as it passes into breast milk, and its safety in infants is unknown.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have or have had any medical conditions especially the following:

- congestive heart failure
- hereditary problems with galactose metabolism
- kidney problems
- diabetes
- a history of substance abuse
- depression.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have a history of substance abuse.

There have been reported cases of misuse and abuse with BTC PREGABALIN.

If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you are given BTC PREGABALIN.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including:

- all prescription medicines
- all medicines, vitamins, herbal supplements or natural therapies you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may be affected by BTC PREGABALIN, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

These include:

- oxycodone, morphine or codeine, pain relievers called opioid analgesics
- lorazepam, diazepam and alprazolam, medicines used to treat anxiety
- medicines used to treat allergies (antihistamines)

- medicines used to treat certain psychiatric disorders or depression
- sleeping tablets
- cannabis
- alcohol

If you are not sure whether you are taking any of these medicines, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking BTC PREGABALIN.

How to take BTC PREGABALIN

How much to take

The dose varies from patient to patient.

Your doctor will tell you how many capsules you need to take each day. This may depend on your age, your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.

Your doctor may recommend that you start with a low dose of BTC PREGABALIN and slowly increase the dose to the lowest amount needed to control your epilepsy/convulsions or neuropathic pain.

The usual dose range is 150 mg per day to 600 mg per day given in two divided doses.

How to take it

Swallow the capsules whole with a full glass of water.

When to take it

Take your medicine at about the same time each day.

Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

It does not matter if you take this medicine before or after food.

How long to take it

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.

This medicine helps to control your condition, but does not cure it. It is important to keep taking your medicine, even if you feel well.

Do not stop taking BTC PREGABALIN, or lower the dosage, without checking with your doctor. Do not let yourself run out of medicine over the weekend or on holidays. Stopping BTC PREGABALIN suddenly may worsen your condition or cause unwanted effects such as sleeplessness, headache, nausea (feeling sick), anxiety, excessive sweating or diarrhoea (runny stools). If appropriate, your doctor will slowly reduce your dose before you can stop taking it completely.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose (within 4 hours), skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you take too much BTC PREGABALIN (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor, or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26), or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much BTC PREGABALIN. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose with BTC PREGABALIN may include mood changes, feeling tired, confusion, depression, agitation and restlessness.

While you are taking BTC PREGABALIN

Things you must do

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor, dentist or pharmacist that you are taking BTC PREGABALIN.

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine.

It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any changes in your vision.

BTC PREGABALIN may cause blurring or other changes in eyesight. Your doctor may ask you to stop taking BTC PREGABALIN to improve these symptoms.

Tell your doctor immediately if you have any thoughts of suicide or self-harm, any unusual changes in mood or behaviour, or show signs of depression.

Some people being treated with anti-epileptics such as BTC PREGABALIN have had thoughts of harming themselves or taking their life. Patients and caregivers should be alert and monitor for these effects.

Signs and symptoms of suicidal risk include:

- thoughts or talk of death or suicide
- thoughts or talk of self-harm or harm to others
- any recent attempts of self-harm
- new or an increase in aggressive behaviour, irritability or agitation
- new or worsening depression

Mention of suicide or violence must be taken seriously.

If you or someone you know is demonstrating these warning signs of suicide while taking BTC PREGABALIN, contact your doctor or a mental health professional right away.

Tell your doctor if you feel BTC PREGABALIN is not helping your condition.

Your doctor may need to change your medicine.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken BTC PREGABALIN exactly as prescribed.

Otherwise, your doctor may change your treatment unnecessarily.

If you become pregnant while taking BTC PREGABALIN, tell your doctor immediately.

Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.

Your doctor may do some tests from time to time to make sure the medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

Things you must not do

Do not take BTC PREGABALIN to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours or they have the same condition as you.

Do not stop taking your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how BTC PREGABALIN affects you.

As with other anticonvulsant medicines, BTC PREGABALIN may cause dizziness and drowsiness in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

Be careful when drinking alcohol while you are taking this medicine.

If you drink alcohol, symptoms such as dizziness and drowsiness may be worse.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking BTC PREGABALIN.

BTC PREGABALIN helps most people with neuropathic pain or epilepsy, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

It can be difficult to tell whether side effects are the result of taking BTC PREGABALIN, effects of your condition or side effects of other medicines you may be taking. For this reason it is important to tell your doctor of any change in your condition.

If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

If you get any side effects, do not stop taking BTC PREGABALIN without first talking to your doctor or pharmacist. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- dizziness
- feeling tired or drowsy
- constipation
- diarrhoea
- nausea

- headache
- increase in weight
- unsteadiness when walking, reduced co-ordination, shaking or tremors
- dry mouth
- blurred or double vision
- sweating

These are mild side effects of this medicine and are usually short-lived.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- unusual changes in mood or behaviour
- signs of new or increased irritability or agitation
- signs of depression
- swelling of the hands, ankles or feet
- enlargement of breasts
- unexplained muscle pain, tenderness and weakness
- passing little to no urine

The above list includes serious side effects that may require medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- shortness of breath, swelling of the feet and legs, weight increase due to fluid build-up
- irritated red eyes that are sensitive to light
- more frequent or more severe seizures (fits)
- sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing

These are very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Some of these side effects (for example, changes in blood pressure) can only be found when your doctor does tests from time to time to check your progress. Tell your doctor if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

After taking BTC PREGABALIN

If you have any queries about any aspect of your medicine, or any questions regarding the information in this leaflet, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist

Storage

Keep your capsules in the pack until it is time to take them.

If you take the capsules out of the pack they may not keep well.

Keep your capsules in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store BTC PREGABALIN or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a windowsill or in the car on hot days.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.

Product description

What it looks like

BTC PREGABALIN 25 mg:

- Light grey cap and body hard gelatin capsule with imprinting symbol “25”

BTC PREGABALIN 75 mg:

- Light red cap and light grey body hard gelatin capsule with imprinting symbol “75”

BTC PREGABALIN 150 mg:

- Light grey cap and body hard gelatin capsule with imprinting symbol “150”

BTC PREGABALIN 300 mg:

- Red cap and body light grey hard gelatin capsule with imprinting symbol “300”.

Available in PVC/Al blister packs of 56 capsules.

Ingredients

The active ingredient in BTC PREGABALIN is pregabalin.

Also contains the following inactive ingredients:

- lactose monohydrate
- pregelatinised maize starch
- purified talc
- gelatin
- titanium dioxide
- Capsugel Ink 10A1 or 10A2 Black
- iron oxide black (25 mg, 150 mg and 300 mg capsules only)
- iron oxide black (25 mg, 150 mg and 300 mg capsules only)
- iron oxide red (75 mg and 300 mg capsules only)
- iron oxide yellow (75 mg and 300 mg capsules only)

This medicine contains sugars as lactose monohydrate (25 mg strength).

Supplier

Southern Cross Pharma Pty Ltd
Suite 5/118 Church Street
Hawthorn VIC 3122
Australia

Distributor

Apotex Pty Ltd
16 Giffnock Avenue
Macquarie Park NSW 2113
Australia

Australian registration numbers:

25 mg capsules - AUST R 267467

75 mg capsules - AUST R 267469

150 mg capsules - AUST R 267471

300 mg capsules - AUST R 267477

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