

## Package leaflet: Information for the patient

# Neurexal 25 mg hard capsules Neurexal 75 mg hard capsules Neurexal 150 mg hard capsules Neurexal 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.

### What is in this leaflet

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

#### 1. What Neurexal is and what it is used for

This medicine contains the active substance pregabalin. Pregabalin belongs to a group of medicines used to treat epilepsy, neuropathic pain and Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) in adults.

#### Peripheral and central neuropathic pain:

Neurexal 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 (zona). 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:

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

#### 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 Neurexal

##### Do not take Neurexal:

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

##### Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Neurexal.

Take special care with Neurexal;

- 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 doctor immediately.
- This medicine 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.
- This medicine 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 this medicine; 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 this medicine. If while taking it 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 Neurexal have had thoughts of harming or killing themselves. If at any time you have these thoughts, immediately contact your doctor.
- When Neurexal 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 dependence. Do not take more medicine than prescribed.
- There have been reports of convulsions when taking this medicine or shortly after stopping it. If you experience a convulsion, contact your doctor immediately.
- There have been reports of reduction in brain function (encephalopathy) in some patients taking this medicine when they have other conditions. Tell your doctor if you have a history of any serious medical conditions, including liver or kidney disease.
- There have been reports of breathing difficulties. If you have nervous system disorders, respiratory disorders, renal impairment, or you are older than 65, your doctor may prescribe you a different dosing regimen. Contact your doctor if you experience trouble breathing or shallow breaths.

#### Children and adolescents

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

#### Other medicines and Neurexal

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Neurexal and certain other medicines may influence each other (interaction). When taken with certain other medicines, Neurexal may potentiate the side effects seen with these medicines, including respiratory failure and coma. The degree of dizziness, sleepiness and decreased concentration may be increased if this medicine is taken together with medicinal products containing: Oxycodone (used as a pain-killer); lorazepam (used for treating anxiety) and alcohol.

Neurexal may be taken with oral contraceptives.

#### Neurexal with food, drinks and alcohol

This medicine can be taken with or without food.

It is advised not to drink alcohol while taking this medicine.

#### Pregnancy and breast-feeding

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.

This medicine should not be taken during pregnancy or breast-feeding, unless you are told otherwise by your doctor. Effective contraception must be used by women of child-bearing potential. Contact your doctor immediately if you become pregnant, think you might be pregnant or are planning to become pregnant while taking this medicine.

#### Driving and using machines

This medicine 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.

#### Neurexal contains Lactose

This medicine contains lactose. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

#### 3. How to take Neurexal

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.

##### Taking this medicine:

- Neurexal is for oral use only.
- Take the number of capsules as instructed by your doctor.
- Swallow the capsule whole with water.
- Continue taking Neurexal until your doctor tells you to stop.
- 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 this medicine either twice a day once in the morning and once in the evening, at about the same time each day, or three times a day 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.

#### Elderly (over 65 years of age):

Take this medicine 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.

#### If you take more Neurexal than you should

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

#### If you forget to take Neurexal

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 Neurexal

Do not stop taking this medicine 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 pregabalin treatment, you need to know that you may experience certain side effects. These include trouble sleeping, headache, nausea, feeling anxious, diarrhea, flu-like symptoms, convulsions, nervousness, depression, pain, sweating, and dizziness. It is not clear at this time whether these symptoms occur more commonly or severely if you have been taking pregabalin 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 side effects: (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

Dizziness, drowsiness, headache.

##### Common side effects: (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, diarrhea, 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 side effects: (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 attacks, 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 heart beat, 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 aminotransferase 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 side effects: (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 behavior; 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 side effects: (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.

#### 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.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

#### 5. How to store Neurexal

- 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 blister and the outer packaging. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Do not store above 30°C. Keep away from humidity.
- Do not use this medicine if you notice visible signs of deterioration.
- Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

#### 6. Contents of the pack and other information

##### What Neurexal contains

- The active substance is pregabalin.
- Each hard capsule contains 25 mg, 75 mg, 150 mg or 300 mg of pregabalin.
- The other ingredients are lactose, corn starch and talc.
- The capsule shell of Neurexal 25 mg contains titanium dioxide, gelatin, patent blue V (E131), erythrosin (E127).
- The capsule shell of Neurexal 75 mg contains gelatin, erythrosin (E127), indigotine (E132) and titanium dioxide (E171).
- The capsule shell of Neurexal 150 mg and 300 mg contains gelatin, indigotine (E132) and titanium dioxide (E171).

##### What Neurexal looks like and contents of the pack

Neurexal 25 mg is available in boxes containing 20 blue and white capsules.

Neurexal 75 mg is available in boxes containing 14 red and white capsules.

Neurexal 150 mg is available in boxes containing 30 blue and white capsules.

Neurexal 300 mg is available in boxes containing 30 blue and white capsules.

##### Not all strengths may be marketed.

##### Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

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Reg. N° for Neurexal 25 mg: 48214/1

Reg. N° for Neurexal 75 mg: 167719/10

Reg. N° for Neurexal 150 mg: 167720/10

Reg. N° for Neurexal 300 mg: 168116/1

#### This is a medicament

- A medicament is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you.
- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament.
- The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks.
- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you.
- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor.

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Council of Arab Health Ministers  
Union of Arab Pharmacists