**What is pregabalin (Lyrica)?**

Pregabalin (Lyrica) is a medication that protects against seizures. It is heavily marketed to treat nerve pain from diabetes, damage to nerves after herpes infections (such as shingles), and fibromyalgia. Pregabalin (Lyrica) is chemically related (and works similarly) to generic gabapentin, another seizure medication used for treatment of nerve pain and fibromyalgia.

**Why is pregabalin (Lyrica) a non-preferred medication?**

There is no evidence to prove that pregabalin (Lyrica) is any safer or more effective than comparable generic medications for the treatment of fibromyalgia, nerve pain, or seizure control—yet it costs up to 1,200% more than some generics.

**What other medications are used for fibromyalgia?**

National treatment guidelines and pharmaceutical compendia (medication references used by doctors) recommend generics such as amitriptyline, cyclobenzaprine, and gabapentin for treatment of fibromyalgia.

- Although originally approved for other conditions, generic amitriptyline, cyclobenzaprine, and gabapentin have been prescribed to treat fibromyalgia for many years.
- Each of these generics offers a proven record of safety and effectiveness in the treatment of fibromyalgia.

Generic duloxetine, and the branded drugs pregabalin (Lyrica) and milnacipran (Savella®) are approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) specifically for treating fibromyalgia. However, these medications are not proven to be safer or work better compared to amitriptyline, cyclobenzaprine, or gabapentin in the treatment of fibromyalgia.

**How does gabapentin (Neurontin®) compare to pregabalin (Lyrica)?**

Gabapentin (Neurontin) and pregabalin (Lyrica) work alike inside your body, so treatment results should be about the same. Research funded by the National Institutes of Health found gabapentin (Neurontin) helped relieve pain due to fibromyalgia “in a similar way” as pregabalin (Lyrica). A generic version of gabapentin is available, though not for pregabalin (Lyrica).

**When should pregabalin (Lyrica) be used?**

Pregabalin (Lyrica) may be an option if you find that generic alternatives do not help manage fibromyalgia, nerve pain, or partial seizures successfully. Talk to your doctor about available options.

**Are there common side effects for pregabalin (Lyrica)?**

Side effects for pregabalin (Lyrica) may include weight gain, drowsiness, dizziness, double or blurred vision, and fluid retention. It can also cause poor coordination. Higher medication doses increase the chance of side effects.

**Is pregabalin (Lyrica) habit-forming?**

Because pregabalin (Lyrica) is a controlled substance it can be habit-forming, and has the potential for misuse because of its euphoric effects.
Note: Since many medication options are available, our physicians and pharmacists developed this ConsumerRx to provide you with information about the available alternatives, as well as potential advantages and lack of advantages of the various products. This medication summary was developed based upon an evaluation of information from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), scientific studies, and input from practicing doctors and specialists.