

## Pregabalin

(Bonqat (c), Alzain\*, Axalid\*, Lyrica\*, Pregabalin\*) POM-V, POM CD SCHEDULE 3

- **Client Information Leaflet:** [Pregabalin](#)
- **Formulations**

Oral: 25 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, 225 mg, 300 mg tablets or capsules; 20 mg/ml oral solution; 50 mg/ml oral solution for cats (Bonqat).

- **Action**

Similar mechanism of action to gabapentin; binds to voltage-dependent calcium channels in the CNS, reducing calcium influx and release of excitatory neurotransmitters such as glutamate and substance P. Also increases neuronal GABA levels. Pregabalin is 3–10 times more potent than gabapentin, owing to a greater affinity for the binding site, and generally has a longer duration of action.

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- **Use**
  - Authorized veterinary use is for reduction of acute anxiety and fear associated with transportation and veterinary visits in cats.
  - Adjunctive therapy in the treatment of epileptic seizures refractory to conventional treatment.
  - Treatment of neuropathic pain.

Pregabalin seems to be well absorbed after oral administration in dogs and cats and can reach serum levels shown to be effective in humans with neuropathic pain. The longer half-life of pregabalin in cats suggests that a dosing schedule of every 12 hours or more may be appropriate, which may be an advantage compared with gabapentin but might lead to long term accumulation with continued use.

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- **DOSES**
  - **Dogs**
    - For refractory epilepsy: 3–4 mg/kg p.o. q8h, starting at 2 mg/kg and gradually increasing.
    - For neuropathic pain: 4 mg/kg p.o. q12h (limited evidence).
  - **Cats** For anxiolytic properties, the recommended dose is 5 mg/kg approximately 1.5 hours before the event (approximately 50% of cats have a good or better response). This is considerably higher than the longer term 'off licence' use of 1–3 mg/kg p.o. q12h (limited evidence).