

Article

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Titrating medicines to treat neuropathic pain

ANSWERS

Several oral medicines that are used in the management of neuropathic pain require dose titration. Calculate the total quantities of medicines that would need to be prescribed for these scenarios:

1. Sean wants to prescribe pregabalin for his patient with neuropathic pain. He wants to start with 75mg twice daily for 7 days, then increase the dose to 150mg twice daily. He will be reviewing his patient after 4 weeks. How many 75mg capsules should be prescribed for 4 weeks?

98

2. Gill wants to prescribe gabapentin for her patient, a 42 year old male. She checks the Summary of Product Characteristics and finds the following dosage advice:

For all indications a titration scheme for the initiation of therapy is described in Table 1, which is recommended for adults and adolescents aged 12 years and above.

Table 1		
DOSING CHART – INITIAL TITRATION		
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
300 mg once a day	300 mg two times a day	300 mg three times a day

How many gabapentin 300mg capsules are required for a prescription that will last 2 weeks until she reviews her patient?

39

3. Jawaid is considering prescribing amitriptyline. If the dose was started at 25mg daily and increased by 25mg every 3 days to the maximum of 75mg how many 25mg tablets would be required for a 2 week prescription?

33

4. Seema is treating a patient with trigeminal neuralgia and she wants to prescribe carbamazepine. If she starts at 200mg daily and increases the dose by 100mg each week up to the usual dose of 200mg four times a day, how many weeks will it take to reach this dose?

6 weeks

References

Electronic Medicines Compendium (2019) *Summary of Product Characteristics (gabapentin 300mg capsules)* Retrieved from:

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4636/smpc>

Electronic Medicines Compendium (2019) *Summary of Product Characteristics (Lyrica capsules)* Retrieved from: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5539/smpc>

Electronic Medicines Compendium (2019) *Summary of Product Characteristics (amitriptyline 25mg tablets)* Retrieved from: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/2581/smpc>

Electronic Medicines Compendium (2019) *Summary of Product Characteristics (Tegretol 100mg tablets)* Retrieved from: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/1040/smpc>