

Gabapentin and Pregabalin

AKA: pregabs, gaba-p

Popularity not monitored by BCS; five-fold increase in Pregab prescribing in five yrs

Method of Use: swallowed; prescribed dose range 100-600mg

Duration: 6 hrs+

Effects: +ve: reduction in neural pain; relaxed muscles, drowsiness, reduction in anxiety, sense of calm, wellbeing

About: used for anxiety, neuropathic pain, and anticonvulsant. Pregabalin is a more potent successor to gabapentin



Cost: 50p - £1 for a couple on streets

Source: prescribed, internet, street

Indicators: drowsy, slow reactions, calm

Risks: dependency, overdose (espec. If mixed with alcohol); Acute withdrawal

As benzos and other drugs have become more closely regulated, the prescription substance of choice for those seeking mental cushioning with pain relief is Gabapentin or pregabalin. They have become one of the sought-after drugs in prison and other settings.

On its own a relatively safe drug with a low OD risk. When combined with alcohol or opiates, the risk of OD increases. Tolerance and dependency can develop.