

USE WITH CAUTION.

Risks: Pregabalin can cause fluid retention by altering arterial myogenic tone, which may lead to decompensation of heart failure, increased cardiovascular risk, and a higher incidence of myocardial infarction, thromboembolic events, and stroke. Patients with pre-existing heart failure, chronic kidney disease, or cirrhosis are at particular risk.

Risk monitoring: Monitor for peripheral oedema, weight gain, and symptoms of fluid overload, such as dyspnoea or worsening heart failure. Regularly assess cardiovascular status, especially in those with prior decompensation or on medications that promote sodium or water retention.

Dose adjustment: No specific dose adjustment is required in heart failure. In patients with concomitant renal dysfunction, follow renal-dose adjustment recommendations.

Recommendation:

Use with caution in patients with heart failure or fluid retention. Initiate at the lowest effective dose and reassess therapy if oedema or dyspnoea develops. Although both gabapentin and pregabalin share this risk, some evidence suggests that gabapentin may be associated with a lower cardiovascular risk and may therefore be preferred in patients with pre-existing heart failure or high cardiovascular risk.