

Gabapentin, pregabalin and respiratory depression - What is your experience?
July – September 2018

Number of responses = 49

1) Have you seen respiratory depression *requiring naloxone* in palliative care patients taking gabapentin who are *not* taking a concurrent opioid or other CNS depressant? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Yes	1	2
No	43	91
No experience of using gabapentin without either an opioid or another CNS depressant	5	11

1a) If yes, did the patient also have any of the following risk factors? (many_of)

answer	votes	% of voters
Elderly (>65 years)	0	0
Compromised respiratory function	0	0
Neurological disease	0	0
Renal impairment	0	0
Hepatic impairment	0	0
None of the above	1	2
Don't know	0	0
Not applicable	15	32

2) Have you seen respiratory depression *requiring naloxone* in palliative care patients taking gabapentin concurrently with other CNS depressant drugs? (many_of)

answer	votes	% of voters
Yes, an opioid	6	13
Yes, a benzodiazepine	2	4
Yes, another CNS depressant (please state which in the comments section below)	0	0
No	40	85
No experience of using gabapentin in this setting	2	4

2a) If yes, did the patient also have any of the following risk factors? (many_of)

answer	votes	% of voters
Elderly (>65 years)	3	6
Compromised respiratory function	2	4
Neurological disease	0	0
Renal impairment	3	6
Hepatic impairment	1	2
None of the above	1	2
Don't know	0	0
Not applicable	15	32

3) Have you seen respiratory depression *requiring naloxone* in palliative care patients taking pregabalin who are *not* taking a concurrent opioid or other CNS depressant? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Yes	1	2
No	44	94
No experience of using pregabalin without either an opioid or another CNS depressant	3	6

3a) If yes, did the patient also have any of the following risk factors? (many_of)

answer	votes	% of voters
Elderly (>65 years)	0	0
Compromised respiratory function	0	0
Neurological disease	0	0
Renal impairment	0	0
Hepatic impairment	0	0
None of the above	1	2
Don't know	0	0
Not applicable	12	26

4) Have you seen respiratory depression *requiring naloxone* in palliative care patients taking pregabalin concurrently with other CNS depressant drugs? (many_of)

answer	votes	% of voters
Yes, an opioid	7	15
Yes, a benzodiazepine	3	6
Yes, another CNS depressant (please state which in the comments section below)	0	0
No	39	83
No experience of using pregabalin in this setting	3	6

4a) If yes, did the patient also have any of the following risk factors? (many_of)

answer	votes	% of voters
Elderly (>65 years)	2	4
Compromised respiratory function	2	4
Neurological disease	0	0
Renal impairment	4	9
Hepatic impairment	1	2
None of the above	0	0
Don't know	1	2
Not applicable	12	26

5) Further comments. (freetext)

My experience of respiratory depression has been with the combination of opioids and gabapentin or pregabalin often requiring a dose reduction in both.

We use gabapentin frequently in paediatric palliative care, with and without other opioids. I've not seen a case of significant respiratory depression associated with its use, and none requiring naloxone.