

## LAMOTRIGINE (LAMICTAL®)

### **INDICATIONS**

- 1) Bipolar disorders (not monotherapy for acute mania or monotherapy with an antidepressant) and other cyclic mood disorders
  - Lamotrigine has not been shown to be effective in preventing antidepressant induced mania

### **PRECAUTIONS TO CONSIDER**

#### Contraindications

##### *Absolute:*

- 1) History of anaphylactic reaction and similarly severe significant hypersensitivity to medication prescribed.

##### *Relative:*

- 1) Pregnancy/nursing mothers

#### Precautions

- 1) Combined use with valproic acid
- 2) Renal or hepatic impairment
- 3) Suicidal ideations or behaviors

#### Pregnancy and Breast-Feeding

See relative contraindications. FDA Pregnancy Category C. Lactation Risk L2.

#### Drug Interactions of Major Significance

- 1) Valproic acid
- 2) Carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone
- 3) Sertraline
- 4) Rifampin
- 5) Oral estrogen containing contraceptives, oral estrogen replacement therapy

#### Age-Specific Considerations

- 1) Children and adolescents can have a higher incidence of rash.
- 2) Possible longer half-life in the elderly and patients with renal impairment.

#### Side Effects Which Require Medical Attention

- 1) Rash
- 2) Headache, dizziness
- 3) Diplopia, blurred vision
- 4) Rhinitis
- 5) Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or abdominal discomfort
- 6) Drowsiness, lethargy, ataxia
- 7) Fever, lymphadenopathy
- 8) Mental status changes, cognitive impairment
- 9) Aseptic meningitis

**PATIENT MONITORING**

Patient Monitoring Parameters

- 1) Renal Function - baseline and as clinically indicated
- 2) Hepatic Function - baseline and as clinically indicated
- 3) Pregnancy Test - as clinically indicated
- 4) CBC – baseline and as clinically indicated
- 5) Monitor for the emergence of suicidal ideation or behavior
- 6) Monitor for rash, especially during the first two months of therapy

Dosing

- 1) See DSHS/DADS Drug Formulary for dosage guidelines.
- 2) Titrate dose per manufacturer's package insert to minimize risk of significant side effects.
- 3) If therapy lapses for greater than 5 half-lives, the labeling recommends re-titrating the medication to minimize the incidence of rash.
- 4) The medication should be discontinued gradually (over at least two weeks) unless significant adverse effects (e.g., rash) or other serious adverse events exist.
- 5) Exceptions to maximum dosage must be justified as per medication rule.