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MEXILITINE INFORMATION

Mexiletine, the generic form of Mexitil, was originally developed for heart arrhythmia treatment, but is also prescribed to treat nerve damage because of its ability to balance electrolytes in the blood. Irregular electrolyte levels are likely to trigger a cascade of molecular events that eventually lead to cell death and, therefore, neuronal death—which can cause weakness, muscle twitching, numbness and fatigue. A phase II, 60 patient NEALS-sponsored multicenter randomized controlled trial of Mexiletine in the treatment of ALS was completed in 2014. Patients were randomized to placebo, 300 mg, or 900 mg of Mexiletine and followed over 12 weeks. The primary outcome measures were safety and tolerability. This medication may be of particular help to ALS patients in regards to limb symptoms, which include weakness, muscle twitching, pain, numbness and fatigue.

Information for Physicians

Pain caused by nerve injury is notoriously difficult to treat and is often referred to as a syndrome. The treatment of these pain syndromes with salt channel regulation is relatively new and regarded with high potential. Mexiletine has been successfully used for pain reduction and has had a positive impact on diabetic neuropathy (nerve damage caused by diabetes).

While Mexiletine may alleviate ALS symptoms, it does not treat the systemic disease and is not a cure. Patients taking this medication should avoid caffeinated beverages because mexiletine can decrease the speed at which the body breaks down caffeine and therefore increase caffeine's effects and side effects. Vegetarian or largely-vegetarian diets should also be discussed, as they may affect usage of this drug.

Prescription Information

One 200 mg capsule to be taken 3 times daily every 8 hours. Should be taken with food and/or antacid orally or contents of capsule via PEG. Dispense 270 capsules. For symptomatic relief of limb pain, numbness, tingling due to peripheral neuropathy

Recommended Pharmacy

Hopewell Pharmacy and Compounding Center
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Hopewell, NJ 08525

Email: info@hopewellrx.com

Tel 1- 609-466-1960

Tel 1-800-792-6670, ext 3

Fax 1-800-417-3864