

## LAMOTRIGINE (LAMICTAL®)

### **INDICATIONS**

- 1) Bipolar disorders (not monotherapy for acute mania or monotherapy with an antidepressant) and other cyclic mood disorders

### **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 behavior

#### 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

Children and adolescents can have a higher incidence of rash. 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 Test - baseline and as clinically indicated

- 2) Hepatic Function Test - 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

See DSHS/DADS Drug Formulary for dosage guidelines.

Titrate dose per manufacturer's package insert to minimize risk of significant side effects.

If therapy lapses for greater than 5 half-lives, the labeling recommends re-titrating the medication to minimize the incidence of rash.

The medication should be discontinued gradually (over at least two weeks) unless significant adverse effects (e.g., rash) or other serious adverse events exist.

Exceptions to maximum dosage must be justified as per medication rule.