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Pill mania online

£21.99 £21.99 (£21.99/count) £21.99 £21.99 (£21.99/count) £14.99 £14.99 (£14.99/count) Visit the help section or contact us Lithium (Eskalith, Lithobid) is one of the most widely used and studied medications for the treatment of bipolar disorder. Lithium helps reduce the severity and frequency of mania. It can also help relieve or prevent bipolar depression. Studies show that lithium can significantly reduce suicide risk. Lithium also helps prevent future manic and depressive episodes. As a result, it can be prescribed for long periods of time (even between episodes) as maintenance treatment. Lithium acts on a person's central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). Doctors don't know exactly how lithium works to stabilize a person's mood, but it is thought to help strengthen nerve cell connections in the brain regions involved in regulating mood, thinking and behavior. It usually takes several weeks for lithium to start working. Your doctor will order periodic blood tests during your treatment as lithium may affect kidney or thyroid function. Lithium works best if the amount of the drug in the body is kept at a constant level. It is important that lithium levels in the body are not too low or too high. Your doctor will probably also suggest that you drink eight to 12 glasses of water or liquid a day during treatment and use a normal amount of salt in your food. Both salt and fluid can affect the level of lithium in the blood, so it is important to consume a stable amount every day. The dose of lithium varies between individuals and as stages of their disease change. Although bipolar disorder is often treated with more than one drug, some people may control their condition with lithium alone. About 75% of people who take lithium for bipolar disorder have some side effects, although they may be minor. They may become less troublesome after a few weeks as your body adapts to the drug. Sometimes, side effects of lithium can be alleviated by tweaking the dosage. However, never change your dosage or drug schedule on your own. Do not change the lithium label without first contacting your doctor or pharmacist. If you have any problems, talk to your doctor about your options. Common side effects of lithium can include: Hand tremor (If tremors are particularly troublesome, doses can sometimes be reduced, or an additional medication can help.) Increased thirst Increased urination Diarrhea Weight gain Impaired memory Poor concentration Drowsiness Muscle weakness Hair loss Acne Impaired thyroid function (which can be treated with thyroid hormone) Give your doctor if you suspect you may have persistent side effects from lithium, or if you develop diarrhea, vomiting, fever, uncertain walking, fainting, confusion, blurred speech, or rapid heart rate. Tell your doctor about your medical history, including cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, epilepsy and allergies. Make sure that doctor knows all other medicines you are taking. Avoid products products is low in sodium (salt) as a low sodium diet can lead to too high lithium levels. While taking lithium, be careful when driving or using machines and limit alcoholic beverages. People who take lithium also should consult with their doctor before taking nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen, because these medications can increase lithium levels. If you miss a dose of lithium, take it as soon as you remember – unless the next scheduled dose is within two hours (or six hours for slow forms). If this is the case, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up. There are a few serious risks to consider. The drug has been associated with certain birth defects and should be used with caution in pregnant women, especially during the first three months of pregnancy. The safety of breastfeeding while taking lithium is controversial and should be discussed in advance with your doctor. Also, in some people, long-term lithium treatment can interfere with kidney function or lead to permanent kidney damage - which is why periodic monitoring of blood tests to measure kidney function is important. SOURCES: WebMD Medical Reference: Bipolar disorder (manic depressive disorder). WebMD Assess Plus: Bipolar Disorder Assessment. National Institute for Mental Health: Step-BD Womens Studies. Massachusetts General Hospital Bipolar Clinic & Research Program. MedicineNet.com: Bipolar disorder (Mania). WebMD Medical Reference: Effects of Untreated Depression. American Psychiatric Association: Practice Guideline for treating patients with bipolar disorder. © 2020 WebMD, LLC. All rights reserved. Treatment for Bipolar Depression

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