**dalfampridine (dal-fam-pri-deen)**

**Ampyra, Fampyra**

**Classification**
- Anti-multiple sclerosis agents
- Pharmacologic: potassium channel blockers

**Pregnancy Category C**

**Indications**
Treatment of multiple sclerosis, to improve walking speed.

**Action**
Acts as a potassium channel blocker, which may increase conduction of action potentials.

**Therapeutic Effects:**
Increased walking speed in patients with multiple sclerosis.

**Pharmacokinetics**

- **Absorption:** Rapidly and completely absorbed (96%).
- **Distribution:** Unknown.
- **Metabolism and Excretion:** 96% eliminated in urine, 0.5% in feces.
- **Half-life:** 5.2–6.5 hr.

**TIME/ACTION PROFILE (improvement in walking speed)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTE</th>
<th>ONSET</th>
<th>PEAK</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>unk</td>
<td>3–4 hr</td>
<td>24 hr</td>
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**Contraindications/Precautions**
- Contraindicated in: Hypersensitivity, History of seizures, Moderate/severe renal impairment (CCr < 50 mL/min), Lactation: Avoid use.
- Use Cautiously in: Mild renal impairment (CCr 51–80 mL/min), Geri: Consider age-related changes in renal function, OB: Use only if potential benefit justifies potential risk to fetus, Pedi: Safety and effectiveness not established.

**Adverse Reactions/Side Effects**

- **CNS:** Seizures, dizziness, headache, insomnia, weakness.
- **EENT:** Nasopharyngitis, pharyngolaryngeal pain.
- **GI:** Constipation, dyspepsia, nausea.
- **GU:** Urinary tract infection.
- **MS:** Back pain.
- **Neuro:** Balance disorder, multiple sclerosis relapse, paresthesia.

**Interactions**
- **Drug-Drug:** None noted.

**Route/Dosage**
- **PO (Adults):** 10 mg twice daily.

**NURSING IMPLICATIONS**

**Assessment**
- Assess walking speed in patients with multiple sclerosis prior to and periodically during therapy.
- Monitor for seizures during therapy; risk increases with increased dose. If seizure occurs, discontinue therapy.
- Monitor for signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis (dyspnea, wheezing, urticaria, angioedema of the throat or tongue) during therapy.
- **Lab Test Considerations:** Monitor creatinine clearance prior to and at least yearly during therapy; renal impairment may require dose reduction or discontinuation.

**Potential Nursing Diagnoses**

- Impaired walking (Indications)

**Implementation**
- **Adverse reactions:** Monitor patients twice daily, 12 hrs apart without regard to food. Administer tablets whole, do not break, crush, chew or dissolve.

**Patient/Family Teaching**
- Instruct patient to take dalfampridine as directed, with approximately 12 hrs between tablets. If a dose is missed, omit and take next scheduled dose on time; do not double doses. May increase risk of seizures. Instruct patient to read Medication Guide prior to beginning therapy and with each Rx refill; new information may be available.
- Instruct patient to notify healthcare professional of all Rx or OTC medications, vitamins, or herbal products being taken and consult healthcare professional before taking any new medications.
- If a seizure or signs or symptoms of anaphylaxis occur, advise patient to notify healthcare professional immediately, to discontinue dalfampri-
dine, and to report the event to Acorda (manufacturer) at 1-800-567-5409.
• Advise female patient to notify health care professional if pregnancy is planned or suspected or if breast feeding.

Evaluation/Desired Outcomes
• Improved walking and increased walking speed in patients with multiple sclerosis.

Why was this drug prescribed for your patient?