

A guide to gabapentin

Gabapentin is used to treat pain that occurs as a result of damage to or from a disturbance in the function of nerves (called neuropathic pain).

Brand names:

Gabaran®
Neurontin®
GabaHexal®
Gabapentin (CR,GM,GX, HS),
Pendine®
Gantin®
Nupentin®
Gabatine®

How to take gabapentin

- Most people start taking 100mg to 300mg of gabapentin at night. The dose will then increase gradually over 3 to 7 days, depending on your response. Gabapentin is usually taken 3 times a day, once your doctor has decided on the correct dose for you.
- If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not take a double dose.
- Do not stop taking gabapentin suddenly as it may cause anxiety, insomnia, nausea, pain and sweating. Your doctor will gradually reduce the dose over at least a week.

Common side effects

- Drowsiness
- Fatigue
- Dizziness
- Shaky movements and unsteady walk

Indigestion remedies (antacids) containing aluminum or magnesium may reduce the absorption of gabapentin from the gut. Indigestion remedies should therefore not be taken at the same time as a dose of gabapentin, or in the two hours before a dose.

With other medicines

Gabapentin is safe to take with other medicines, but may increase the effects of alcohol.

Gabapentin is often used with other medicines for pain, such as morphine.

Gabapentin and driving

Gabapentin may impair your ability to drive. Generally, avoid driving when starting gabapentin, and when increasing the dose. Check with your health professional if you are unsure.

The information provided in this leaflet is a guide only and it is important to ask your health professional if you have questions or concerns about the use of gabapentin.

*Developing the role of a pharmacist in community palliative care multidisciplinary teams project.
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