
Department of Neurosciences

Gabapentin drug information

Drug brand names

- Gabapentin
- Neurontin

Uses

Gabapentin is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy of focal onset. Gabapentin is one of the newer antiepileptic drugs which can be taken in combination with other antiepileptic medication or on its own. It is only available in capsule form containing 100mg, 300mg and 400mg.

Gabapentin is also used as a form of pain management. Please see separate information leaflets on the use of Gabapentin for pain relief for acute and chronic pain. These leaflets can be found on the Addenbrooke's website via the following link: http://www.addenbrookes.org.uk/patient_visitors/information_leaflets/library/list_g.htm. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact PALS on 01223 216756 or extension 2756.

Side effects

Dose-related side effects become more likely at higher doses. However this improves if the dose is reduced. Side effects sometimes occur temporarily when the medication is started or as the dose is increased.

Common side effects are:

- Sleepiness, impaired concentration
- Headache, double vision, nausea and vomiting
- Weight gain

Other medically serious side effects are extremely rare but may include severe mood changes and confusion, which stop on reducing or withdrawing the medication.

In the event of any of these side effects, contact the epilepsy nurse (contact number at the end of the leaflet) or your GP.

Contraception

Gabapentin does not affect the oral contraceptive pill or other methods of contraception.

Pregnancy

You should ask to see your specialist for medication review before you conceive. Once you are already pregnant it is too late to make these changes. The risks to your baby from Gabapentin are unknown but in animal studies the drug was safe. We recommend you take folic acid 5mg daily from at least eight weeks prior to conception until at least 13 weeks of pregnancy.

Drug interactions

Ordinary medications such as paracetamol and aspirin can be given with Gabapentin. Drug interactions are rare with Gabapentin but for any other drugs prescribed, always remind your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking Gabapentin.

Other Useful Information

- Try to take the medicine at the same time every day.
- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember.
- Do not take two doses at once.
- Do not take indigestion remedies within about two hours of this medication.
- Do not stop taking Gabapentin unless your doctor tells you. This is done slowly over a period of time.
- Store Gabapentin below 30 degrees and in the packaging that it comes in.
- Keep a record of your seizures when you start any new medication. This will help determine future drug dosages.

Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the epilepsy nurse specialist on 01223 217992.

The information on this leaflet is not exhaustive. Please refer to the patient information leaflet prepared by the manufacturer of your drug which can be found in the medicine packaging.



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. You cannot smoke on site. For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free, 0800 169 0 169

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Informacje te można otrzymać w innych językach, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio. Zamówienia prosimy składać pod numerem: 01223 216032 lub wysyłając e-mail: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Se precisar desta informação num outro idioma, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio por favor telefone para o 01223 216032 ou envie uma mensagem para: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Если вам требуется эта информация на другом языке, крупным шрифтом или в аудиоформате, пожалуйста, обращайтесь по телефону 01223 216032 или на вебсайт patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Russian

若你需要此信息的其他語言版本、大字體版或音頻格式，請致電 01223 216032 或發郵件到: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese

Bu bilgiyi diger dillerde veya büyük baskılı ya da sesli formatta isterseniz lütfen su numaradan kontak kurun: 01223 216032 veya asagıdaki adrese e-posta gönderin: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

এই তথ্য বাংলায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও টেপে পেতে চাইলে দয়া করে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করুন বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করুন।

Bengali

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