

## GABAPENTIN (NEURONTIN)

Gabapentin is FDA approved for the management of postherpetic neuralgia in adults; adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial seizures with and without secondary generalization in patients over 12 years of age with epilepsy; adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial seizures in pediatric patients age 3 – 12 years. It is also useful for treatment of chronic neuropathic pain.

Gabapentin comes in many sizes including 100, 300, 400, 600, and 800 mg. The usual dose is 1800-5400 mg a day but the dose can vary depending on how well it works for you and your tolerance of the medication.

If you find a dosage level that is satisfactory, there is no reason to increase the medication. If, after you have increased the medication, you find that the previous -- that is, lower--dose was just as effective, it would be better to use the lower dose.

You will start with Gabapentin 300 mg tablets.

To start, you will take one tablet at bedtime and then increase every three to five days as shown in the table:

	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bedtime</b>	<b>INSERT DATE</b>
Start	0	0	1 tablet	
After 3 - 5 days	1 tablet	0	1 tablet	
After 3 - 5 days	1 tablet	1 tablet	1 tablet	
After 3 - 5 days	1 tablet	1 tablet	2 tablets	
After 3 - 5 days	2 tablets	1 tablet	2 tablets	
After 3 - 5 days	2 tablets	2 tablets	2 tablets	Call office
After 3 - 5 days	2 tablets	2 tablets	3 tablets	
After 3 - 5 days	3 tablets	2 tablets	3 tablets	
After 3 - 5 days	3 tablets	3 tablets	3 tablets	Call office

The main side effect is drowsiness.

No blood monitoring is needed while taking gabapentin.

Complete information can be found at <http://www.neurontin.com/>.

**GABAPENTIN (By mouth)**  
**Gabapentin (GA-ba-pen-tin)**

**Controls certain types of seizures in people who have epilepsy. Also treats pain caused by infections such as shingles (postherpetic neuralgia).**

**Brand Name(s): Neurontin, Gabarone, DispenseQuick Gabapentin**

There may be other brand names for this medicine.

**When This Medicine Should Not Be Used:**

You should not use this medicine if you have ever had an allergic reaction to gabapentin.

**How to Use This Medicine:**

**Capsule, Tablet, Liquid**

- Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to take and how often. Do not take more medicine or take it more often than your doctor tells you to.
- You may take this medicine with or without food.
- Do not allow more than 12 hours between doses.
- Measure the **oral liquid** medicine with a marked measuring spoon or medicine cup.
- When used to treat seizures, gabapentin is usually taken with other anticonvulsant medicines. Take all other medicines your doctor has prescribed as part of your combination treatment.

**If a dose is missed:**

- 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 use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

**How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine:**

- Store the medicine at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light. Store the **oral liquid** in the refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Keep all medicine out of the reach of children and never share your medicine with anyone.

**Drugs and Foods to Avoid:**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.**

- Make sure your doctor knows if you are also using morphine or hydrocodone (Vicodin®).
- If you take an antacid (such as Maalox®), wait at least 2 hours before taking gabapentin.

**Warnings While Using This Medicine:**

- Make sure your doctor knows if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if you have kidney disease.
- Do not stop using this medicine suddenly without asking your doctor. You may need to slowly decrease your dose before stopping it completely.
- This medicine may make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid driving, using machines, or doing anything else that could be dangerous if you are not alert.
- If you have a test done for protein in your urine, tell the healthcare provider you are using this medicine.

**Possible Side Effects While Using This Medicine:**

**Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:**

- Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, tightness in chest, trouble breathing
- Clumsiness, problems with coordination
- Extreme tiredness, slurred speech
- Uncontrolled eye movement

**If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:**

- Behavior problems, hostility, restlessness, trouble concentrating, moodiness (especially in children)
- Blurred or double vision
- Fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat, stuffy nose (especially in children)
- Nausea, vomiting (especially in children)
- Rapid weight gain
- Shakiness
- Swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet

**If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.**

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