

## 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.ht](http://www.addenbrookes.org.uk/patient_visitors/information_leaflets/library/list_g.ht) [ml](http://www.addenbrookes.org.uk/patient_visitors/information_leaflets/library/list_g.ht). 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.**



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

### Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Arabic

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال بمعلومات المريض على الرقم: 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Cantonese

如您需以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasinlar: 01223 216032 veya [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کرنے کی درخواست کریں: 01223 216032 یا [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Bengali

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পেতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk) ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

### Document history

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