

Gabapentin



UHN

What is the name of the medicine my doctor has prescribed?

Generic Name	Brand Name
Gabapentin	Neurontin [®] , generics

What is Gabapentin?

Gabapentin is a medication that affects the way nerves work. The exact way it helps treat seizures, pain and/or mood is not known.

What is Gabapentin used for?

Gabapentin is used to treat and prevent seizures (epilepsy).

However, gabapentin may also be used to:

1. Decrease pain in the nerves that may feel like a burning, tingling or shock-like pain (neuropathic pain)
2. Decrease pain caused by migraine or chronic headaches
3. Reduce extreme changes in moods which helps people with bipolar disorder or anxiety.

If you need this medicine for another problem, your health care provider will give you more information.

What are the possible side effects of this medicine?

- feeling tired or drowsy
- feeling unsteady on your feet
- change in vision
- dizziness
- weight gain

Some side effects may go away as your body gets used to the medicine.

This is not a complete list of side effects. If you are concerned about these or other side effects, ask your doctor and/or pharmacist for more information and advice.

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When should I call the doctor?

If you notice any of these problems call your doctor right away:

- If you are using this for seizures and your seizures get worse
- If you are using this for pain and you don't see improvement after a few weeks
- Your vision is blurry, you are seeing double or your eyes are moving involuntarily
- Your speech is slurred or you feel "drunk"
- You feel extremely tired or have a loss of energy

What should I remember while taking this medicine?

- Gabapentin can be taken with or without food.
- Do not drive a car or operate machinery if this medication makes you feel dizzy.
- Check with your doctor and/or pharmacist before taking any other medicine (prescribed by a doctor or bought in a pharmacy), vitamins or herbal remedies.
 - Specifically, antacids can interact with gabapentin.
- If you have kidney problems, talk to your doctor as your dose may need to be changed.
- Do not suddenly stop taking this medicine, even if you feel better. Before you stop taking the medicine, your doctor may need to slowly decrease the dose.
- Do not drink large amounts of alcohol as this could make you more sensitive to the side effects of gabapentin.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed. Take the next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. If you are unsure of what to do, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

This site does not provide medical advice.

These sheets are developed by the UHN Pharmacy Department. They are provided for informational purposes only. These sheets are meant to supplement a discussion with the pharmacist. Please contact a pharmacist or other health care professionals if you have any further questions regarding this medication.