

Gabapentin (Neurontin[®])

Gabapentin is a medicine used to treat nerve pain (known as neuropathy). This medicine is also used to treat seizures.

How Is It Given?

- capsule, tablet or liquid by mouth

What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

Common:

- sleepiness
- fatigue
- dizziness
- blurred or double vision
- eye movements you cannot control
- change in balance
- shakiness
- swelling
- muscle pain
- behavior problems (especially in children younger than age 12):
 - hyperactivity
 - mood swings
 - hostility

Less common:

- nausea
- vomiting
- weight gain
- depression

Special Notes

- Take the first dose at bedtime.
- Do not take antacids, calcium or iron within 2 hours of taking gabapentin.
- Do not drive or perform other activities that require you to be alert until you know how this medicine will affect you.
- Do not drink alcohol or take other medicines and natural products that slow your reaction times.
- Take this medicine with or without food. Take with food if the medicine gives you an upset stomach.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. But if you realize you missed a dose and it is close to your next scheduled dose, wait until the next dose. Do not double up on doses or take extra doses.
- It is important to keep this medicine out of reach of children.
- Store this medicine away from heat and moisture. (Do not keep it in the kitchen or bathroom.)

- Do not stop taking this medicine or change doses without talking to your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you are or plan to become pregnant.

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- signs of an allergic reaction: itching, hives, swelling in the face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, tightness in the chest or trouble breathing
- clumsiness or problems with coordination, severe dizziness or passing out
- extreme tiredness or slurred speech
- unusual muscle pain, back pain, tenderness or weakness

- blurred or double vision
- fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat, stuffy nose (especially in children) that will not go away
- nausea (feel like throwing up) or vomiting (throwing up)
- rapid weight gain
- shakiness or tremors
- swelling in your hands, ankles or feet.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.