



Gabapentin (Neurontin®) Patient Information

What is this medicine used for?

Gabapentin is used to relieve pain from the nerves, from the spinal cord, or from the brain. Nerve pain may be associated with shingles (herpes zoster), diabetic neuropathy, peripheral neuropathy, sciatica, trigeminal neuralgia and other conditions. Gabapentin is also used in the management of certain types of seizures in adults and children with epilepsy.

How do I take this medicine?

Use gabapentin regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. It will take several weeks of regular use at an adequate dose in order to see changes in pain control. Gabapentin works best if it is taken at evenly spaced intervals throughout the day and night.

Gabapentin may be taken with or without food. If you take antacids containing aluminum or magnesium they may interfere with the absorption of gabapentin. Therefore it is best to take gabapentin 2 hours before or 2 hours after you take the antacid.

Do not suddenly stop taking gabapentin because this may cause uncomfortable side effects. Your dose may need to be gradually decreased if gabapentin is to be stopped.

Initially, your dose will be gradually increased so your body can adjust to the medication.

What if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next one as directed. Do not take double doses.

What are the possible side effects?

Gabapentin may cause drowsiness, dizziness, unsteadiness, fatigue, vision changes, weight gain, swelling of the hands and feet, nausea, dry mouth, or constipation.

This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your pharmacist or call Pittsburgh Pain Physicians at 412-533-2202 immediately. Remember that your doctor has prescribed gabapentin because he has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using gabapentin do not have serious side effects.

Where should I store this medicine?

Store at room temperature away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom.

YOUR PRESCRIBED NEURONTIN WEEKLY TITRATION SCHEDULE (NEURONTIN _____ MG TABLETS)

	Morning	Afternoon	Night		Morning	Afternoon	Night
Week 1				Week 5			
Week 2				Week 6			
Week 3				Week 7			
Week 4				Week 8			

