GABAPENTIN

gab-ah-pen-tin

What does it do?

Gabapentin is used to treat and prevent some types of pain and seizures. It is also sometimes used for other conditions.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *gabapentin* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food.

What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible and continue as directed.

Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *gabapentin* including:

- some antihistamines, such as chlorphenamine, hyoscine, meclozine and promethazine. These can be in medicines for allergies, nausea and colds.

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (e.g. ginkgo) or recreational drugs (e.g. ecstasy).

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Suicidal thoughts	Tell your doctor immediately
Confusion, trouble concentrating, memory loss Mood changes Loss of co-ordination/walking or handwriting problems, tremor Changes in vision	Tell your doctor
Dizziness, drowsiness, tiredness or weakness Swollen feet or legs Weight gain Dry mouth	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- *Gabapentin* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. (search NZTA - Are you safe to drive?)
- Do not stop taking *gabapentin* without talking to your doctor first.