



## GABAPENTIN

*gab-ah-pen-tin*

### What does it do?

*Gabapentin* is used to treat and prevent some types of pain and seizures.

### How should you take it?

Take *gabapentin* regularly as directed with a glass of water.

### 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:

- anti-sickness medicines (e.g. Sea-legs®)
- some antihistamines (may be in anti-allergy, anti-nausea and cough/cold medicines)

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                          |
|---|---|
| Skin rash, skin peeling or blisters   | Stop taking and see your doctor immediately |
| Suicidal thoughts<br>Swollen lips, tongue, throat or face   | Tell your doctor immediately                |
| Changes in vision<br>Confusion, loss of co-ordination/walking or handwriting problems,<br>memory loss, mood changes, tremor, trouble concentrating                  | Tell your doctor                            |
| Dizziness, drowsiness, headache<br>Tiredness or weakness, muscle aches and pains<br>Swollen feet or legs<br>Change of appetite, weight gain, dry mouth<br>Impotence | Tell your doctor if troublesome             |
| Stomach upset   | Take with food                              |

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

### Other information:

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- *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, unless you have a skin rash (see Side Effects).