

PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

Gabapentin 100 mg capsules, hard
Gabapentin 300 mg capsules, hard
Gabapentin 400 mg capsules, hard

gabapentin

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Gabapentin capsules are and what they are used for
2. What you need to know before you take Gabapentin capsules
3. How to take Gabapentin capsules
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Gabapentin capsules
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. WHAT GABAPENTIN CAPSULES ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE USED FOR

Gabapentin capsules, hard (called Gabapentin capsules in the rest of this leaflet) belong to a group of medicines used to treat epilepsy and peripheral neuropathic pain (long lasting pain caused by damage to the nerves).

Gabapentin capsules are used to treat:

- Various forms of epilepsy (seizures that are initially limited to certain parts of the brain, whether the seizure spreads to other parts of the brain or not). The doctor treating you or your child 6 years of age and older will prescribe Gabapentin capsules to help treat epilepsy when your current treatment is not fully controlling the condition. You or your child 6 years of age and older should take Gabapentin capsules in addition to the current treatment unless told otherwise.
Gabapentin capsules can also be used on its own to treat adults and children over 12 years of age.
- Peripheral neuropathic pain (long lasting pain caused by damage to the nerves). A variety of different diseases can cause peripheral neuropathic pain (primarily occurring in the legs and/or arms), such as diabetes or shingles. Pain sensations may be described as hot, burning, throbbing, shooting, stabbing, sharp, cramping, aching, tingling, numbness, pins and needles etc

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE GABAPENTIN CAPSULES

Do not take Gabapentin capsules:

- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to gabapentin or any of the other ingredients of this medicine listed in section 6).

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Gabapentin capsules:

- if you suffer from kidney problems your doctor may prescribe a different dosing schedule;
- if you are on haemodialysis (to remove waste products because of kidney failure), tell your doctor if you develop muscle pain and/or weakness;
- if you develop signs such as persistent stomach pain, feeling sick and being sick contact your doctor immediately as these may be symptoms of acute pancreatitis (an inflamed pancreas).
- if you have nervous system disorders, respiratory disorders, or you are more than 65 years old, your doctor may prescribe you a different dosing regimen.
- Before taking this medicine, tell your doctor if you have ever abused or been dependent on alcohol, prescription medicines or illegal drugs; it may mean you have a greater risk of becoming dependent on Gabapentin Capsules.

Cases of abuse and dependence have been reported for gabapentin from the post-marketing experience. Talk to your doctor if you have a history of abuse or dependence. A small number of people being treated with anti-epileptics such as gabapentin have had thoughts of harming or killing themselves. If at any time you have these thoughts, immediately contact your doctor.

Dependence

Some people may become dependent on Gabapentin Capsules (a need to keep taking the medicine). They may have withdrawal effects when they stop using Gabapentin Capsules (see section 3, "How to take Gabapentin Capsules" and "If you stop taking Gabapentin Capsules"). If you have concerns that you may become dependent on Gabapentin Capsules, it is important that you consult your doctor.

If you notice any of the following signs whilst taking Gabapentin Capsules, it could be a sign that you have become dependent.

- You feel you need to take the medicine for longer than advised by your prescriber
- You feel you need to take more than the recommended dose
- You are using the medicine for reasons other than prescribed
- You have made repeated, unsuccessful attempts to quit or control the use of the medicine - When you stop taking the medicine you feel unwell, and you feel better once taking the medicine again

If you notice any of these, speak to your doctor to discuss the best treatment pathway for you, including when it is appropriate to stop and how to do this safely

Important information about potentially serious reactions

Serious skin rashes including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) have been reported in association with gabapentin. Stop using gabapentin and seek medical attention immediately if you notice any of the symptoms related to these serious skin reactions described in section 4.

Read the description of these symptoms in section 4 of this leaflet under '*Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms after taking this medicine as they can be serious*'

Muscle weakness, tenderness or pain and particularly, if at the same time, you feel unwell or have a high temperature it may be caused by an abnormal muscle breakdown which can be life-threatening and lead to kidney problems. You may also experience discoloration of your urine, and a change in blood test results (notably blood creatine phosphokinase increased). If you experience any of these signs or symptoms, please contact your doctor immediately.

Other medicines and Gabapentin capsules

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. In particular, tell your doctor (or pharmacist) if you are taking or have been recently taking any medicines for convulsions, sleeping disorders, depression, anxiety, or any other neurological or psychiatric problems.

Medicines containing opioids such as morphine.

If you are taking any medicines containing opioids (such as morphine), please tell your doctor or pharmacist as opioids may increase the effect of Gabapentin capsules. In addition, combination of Gabapentin capsules with opioids may cause sleepiness, sedation, decrease in breathing, or death.

Antacids for indigestion.

If Gabapentin capsules and antacids containing aluminium and magnesium are taken at the same time, absorption of Gabapentin capsules from the stomach may be reduced. It is therefore recommended that Gabapentin capsules are taken at the earliest two hours after taking an antacid.

Gabapentin capsules:

- are not expected to interact with other antiepileptic drugs or the oral contraceptive pill.
- may interfere with some laboratory tests, if you require a urine test tell your doctor or hospital what you are taking.

Gabapentin capsules with food - Gabapentin capsules can be taken with or without food.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

- If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, you must tell you doctor straight away and discuss possible risks the medicine you are taking might pose to your unborn baby
- If you are planning to become pregnant you should discuss your treatment with your doctor as early as possible before you become pregnant
- You should not stop your treatment without discussing this with your doctor.

Pregnancy Gabapentin capsules should not be taken during pregnancy, unless you are told otherwise by your doctor. Effective contraception must be used by women of child-bearing potential.

If used during pregnancy, gabapentin may lead to withdrawal symptoms in newborn infants. This risk might be increase when gabapentin is taken together with opioid analgesics (drugs for treatment of severe pain).

There have been very few studies specifically looking at the use of gabapentin in pregnant women. More research is needed to better understand the safety of use of gabapentin during pregnancy and whether it is associated with an increased risk of harm to the unborn child.

Some medicines used to treat epilepsy have reported an increased risk of harm to the developing baby, particularly when more than one seizure medication is taken at the same time. This means that where possible, your doctor should consider using one epilepsy medicine to control your epilepsy.

Contact your doctor immediately if you become pregnant, think you might be pregnant or are planning to become pregnant while taking Gabapentin capsules. Do not suddenly discontinue taking this medicine as this may lead to a breakthrough seizure, which could have serious consequences for you and your baby.

Breast feeding Gabapentin, the active substance of Gabapentin capsules, is passed on through human milk.

Because the effect on the baby is unknown, it is not recommended to breast-feed while using Gabapentin capsules. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine

Fertility There is no effect on fertility in animal studies.

Driving and using machines Gabapentin capsules may produce dizziness, drowsiness and tiredness. You should not drive, operate complex machinery or take part in other potentially hazardous activities until you know whether this medication affects your ability to perform these activities.

Gabapentin capsules contains lactose Gabapentin capsules contain lactose (a type of sugar). If you have been told by your doctor that you have intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

3. HOW TO TAKE GABAPENTIN CAPSULES

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. Your doctor will determine what dose is appropriate for you. Do not take more medicine than prescribed.

Epilepsy, the recommended dose is

Adults and adolescents: Take the number of capsules as instructed. Your doctor will usually build up your dose gradually. The starting dose will generally be between 300 mg and 900 mg each day. Thereafter, the dose may be increased as instructed by your doctor, up to a maximum of 3600 mg each day and your doctor will tell you to take this in 3 separate doses, i.e. once in the morning, once in the afternoon and once in the evening.

Children aged 6 years and above: The dose to be given to your child will be decided by your doctor as it is calculated against your child's weight. The treatment is started with a low initial dose which is gradually increased over a period of approximately 3 days. The usual dose to control epilepsy is 25-35 mg per kg of body weight per day. It is usually given in 3 separate doses, by taking the capsule(s) each day, usually once in the morning, once in the afternoon and once in the evening.

Gabapentin capsules are not recommended for use in children below 6 years of age.

Peripheral Neuropathic Pain, the recommended dose is:

Adults: Take the number of capsules as instructed by your doctor. Your doctor will usually build up your dose gradually. The starting dose will generally be between 300 mg and 900 mg each day. Thereafter, the dose may be increased as instructed by your doctor, up to a maximum of 3600 mg each day and your doctor will tell you to take this in 3 separate doses, i.e. once in the morning, once in the afternoon and once in the evening.

If you have kidney problems or are receiving haemodialysis Your doctor may prescribe a different dosing schedule and/or dose if you have problems with your kidneys or are undergoing haemodialysis.

If you are an elderly patient (over 65 years of age), you should take the normal dose of Gabapentin capsules unless you have problems with your kidneys. Your doctor may prescribe a different dosing schedule and/or dose if you have problems with your kidneys. Continue taking Gabapentin capsules until your doctor tells you to stop. If you have the impression that the effect of Gabapentin capsules is too strong or too weak, talk to your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible.

Method and route of administration

Gabapentin capsules are for oral use. Always swallow the capsules whole with plenty of water. Continue taking Gabapentin capsules until your doctor tells you to stop.

If you take more Gabapentin capsules than you should

Higher than recommended doses may result in an increase in side effects including loss of consciousness, dizziness, double vision, slurred speech, drowsiness and diarrhoea. Call your doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency unit immediately if you take more Gabapentin capsules than your doctor prescribed. Take along any capsules that you have not taken, together with the container and the label so that the hospital can easily tell what medicine you have taken.

If you forget to take Gabapentin capsules If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember unless it is time for your next dose. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Gabapentin capsules - Do not suddenly stop taking Gabapentin Capsules. If you want to stop taking Gabapentin Capsules, discuss this with your doctor first. They will tell you how to do this. If your treatment is stopped it should be done gradually over a minimum of 1 week. After stopping a short or long-term treatment with Gabapentin Capsules, you need to know that you may experience certain side effects, so-called withdrawal effects. These effects can include seizures, anxiety, difficulty sleeping, feeling sick (nausea), pain, sweating, shaking, headache, depression, feeling abnormal, dizziness, and feeling generally unwell. These effects usually occur within 48 hours after stopping Gabapentin Capsules. If you experience withdrawal effects, you should contact your doctor. If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Stop using Gabapentin Capsules and seek medical attention immediately if you notice any of the following symptoms:

- reddish non-elevated, target-like or circular patches on the trunk, often with central blisters, skin peeling, ulcers of mouth, throat, nose, genitals and eyes. These serious 9 skin rashes can be preceded by fever and flu-like symptoms (Stevens-Johnsonsyndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis).
- Widespread rash, high body temperature and enlarged lymph nodes (DRESS syndrome or drug hypersensitivity syndrome).

Like all medicines, Gabapentin capsules can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them:

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms after taking this medicine as they can be serious:

- severe skin reactions that require immediate attention, swelling of the lips and face, skin rash and redness and/or hair loss (these may be symptoms of a serious allergic reaction)
- persistent stomach pain, feeling sick and being sick as these may be symptoms of acute pancreatitis (an inflamed pancreas)
- breathing problems, which if severe you may need emergency and intensive care to continue breathing normally
- Gabapentin capsules may cause a serious or life-threatening allergic reaction that may affect your skin or other parts of your body such as your liver or blood cells. You may or may not have rash when you get this type of reaction. It may cause you to be hospitalised or to stop Gabapentin capsules. Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following symptoms:

- skin rash
- hives
- fever
- swollen glands that do not go away
- swelling of your lip and tongue
- yellowing of your skin or of the whites of the eyes
- unusual bruising or bleeding
- severe fatigue or weakness
- unexpected muscle pain
- frequent infections

These symptoms may be the first signs of a serious reaction. A doctor should examine you to decide if you should continue taking Gabapentin capsules.

If you are on haemodialysis, tell your doctor if you develop muscle pain and/or weakness.

Other side effects include:

Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- Viral infection • Feeling drowsy, dizziness, lack of coordination • Feeling tired, fever

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Pneumonia, respiratory infections, urinary tract infection, inflammation of the ear or other infections
- Low white blood cell counts
- Anorexia, increased appetite
- Anger towards others, confusion, mood changes, depression, anxiety, nervousness, difficulty with thinking.
- Convulsions, jerky movements, difficulty with speaking, loss of memory, tremor, difficulty sleeping, headache, sensitive skin, decreased sensation (numbness), difficulty with coordination, unusual eye movement, increased, decreased or absent reflexes
- Blurred vision, double vision
- Vertigo
- High blood pressure, flushing or dilation of blood vessels
- Difficulty breathing, bronchitis, sore throat, cough, dry nose
- Vomiting (being sick), nausea (feeling sick), problems with teeth, inflamed gums, diarrhoea, stomach pain, indigestion, constipation, dry mouth or throat, flatulence
- Facial swelling, bruises, rash, itch, acne
- Joint pain, muscle pain, back pain, twitching
- Difficulties with erection (impotence)
- Swelling in the legs and arms, difficulty with walking, weakness, pain, feeling unwell, flu-like symptoms
- Decrease in white blood cells, increase in weight
- Accidental injury, fracture, abrasion

Additionally in clinical studies in children, aggressive behaviour and jerky movements were reported commonly.

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Agitation (a state of chronic restlessness and unintentional and purposeless motions)
- Allergic reactions such as hives
- Decreased movement
- Racing heartbeat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Swelling that may involve the face, trunk and limbs
- Abnormal blood test results suggesting problems with the liver
- Mental impairment
- Fall
- Difficulty with thinking
- Increase in blood glucose levels (most often observed in patients with diabetes)

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Low blood sugar (most often observed in patients with diabetes)
- Loss of consciousness
- Trouble breathing, shallow breaths (respiratory depression)

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data (reported since introduction to the market):

- Becoming dependent on Gabapentin Capsules ('drug dependence')
- Decreased platelets (blood clotting cells)
- Hallucinations
- Problems with abnormal movements such as writhing, jerking movements and stiffness
- Ringing in the ears
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice), inflammation of the liver
- Acute kidney failure, incontinence
- Increased breast tissue, breast enlargement
- Adverse events following the abrupt discontinuation of gabapentin (anxiety, difficulty sleeping, feeling sick, pain, sweating), chest pain
- Breakdown of muscle fibers (rhabdomyolysis)
- Change in blood test results (creatine phosphokinase increased)
- Problems with sexual functioning including inability to achieve a sexual climax, delayed ejaculation
- Low blood sodium level
- Anaphylaxis (serious, potentially life threatening allergic reaction including difficulty breathing, swelling of the lips, throat, and tongue, and hypotension requiring emergency treatment)

If any of the side effects become serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

After stopping a short or long-term treatment with Gabapentin Capsules, you need to know that you may experience certain side effects, so-called withdrawal effects (see "If you stop taking Gabapentin Capsules").

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE GABAPENTIN CAPSULES

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children. Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. Do not store Gabapentin capsules above 30°C. Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Gabapentin capsules contains The active substance is gabapentin. Each hard capsule, contains either 100 mg, 300 mg or 400 mg gabapentin. The other ingredients in Gabapentin capsules are: Capsule contents: Lactose monohydrate, maize starch and talc. Capsule shell: gelatin. The 100mg capsules contain the colouring E171 (Titanium dioxide); the 300mg capsules contain the colourings: E171 (Titanium dioxide) and E172 (yellow iron oxide) and the 400mg capsules contain the colourings: E171 (Titanium dioxide) and E172 (red and yellow iron oxide). The printing ink used on all capsules contains shellac, Iron oxide black (E172).

What Gabapentin capsules look like and contents of the pack The 100 mg capsules are white hard capsules marked with "100". The 300 mg capsules are yellow hard capsules marked with "300". The 400 mg capsules are orange hard capsules marked with "400". Supplied in PVC/PVDC/aluminium foil blister packs of 100 capsules.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation holder

Rivopharm UK Ltd
100 Bishopsgate, London
EC2N 4AG, United Kingdom

Manufacturers:

Laboratoires BTT
ZI de Krafft
67150 Erstein , France

Rivopharm UK Ltd
100 Bishopsgate, London
EC2N 4AG, United Kingdom

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