GABAPENTIN ZENTIVA 100MG, 300MG & 400MG CAPSULES

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 Z is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take gabapentin
3. How to take gabapentin
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store gabapentin
6. Contents of the pack and other information

What is GABAPENTIN Z used for?
This medicine is called Gabapentin Zentiva and it contains the active substance Gabapentin (called gabapentin throughout this leaflet).

Gabapentin belongs to a group of medicines used to treat epilepsy and peripheral neuropathic pain (long-lasting pain caused by damage to the nerves).

Gabapentin is used to treat:
- Various forms of epilepsy (fits that are initially limited to certain parts of the brain, whether the seizures spread to either parts of the brain or not). The doctor treating you or your child 6 years of age and older will prescribe gabapentin to help reduce the frequency of your seizures. The treatment is not fully controlling the condition. You or your child may need to take gabapentin in addition to the current treatment unless told otherwise. Gabapentin can also be used to its own in the treatment of 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, such as diabetic nerve disorders occurring in the legs and/or arms, such as diabetic, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease or peripheral neuropathy. Pain sensations may be described as hot, burning, throbbing, shooting, stabbing, sharp, cramping, tingling, numbness, pins and needles etc.

What you need to know before you take gabapentin
Do not take gabapentin
- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to the active substance of this medicine (gabapentin) or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking gabapentin:
- If you suffer from kidney problems your doctor may prescribe a different dosing schedule.
- If you have a history of kidney disorders (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 removed system disorders, respiratory disorders, or you are more than 65 years old, your doctor may prescribe you a different dosing regimen

Gabapentin treatment has been associated with dizziness and sleepiness, which could increase the likelihood of falls in older people. There have also been reports of loss of consciousness and confusion (see section 4).

Cases of abuse and dependence have been reported for gabapentin. Talk to your doctor if you have a history of abuse or dependence.

A small number of people being treated with anti-epileptic such as gabapentin have had thoughts of harming or killing themselves. If at any time you have these thoughts, immediately contact your doctor.

Important information about potentially serious reactions
A small number of people taking gabapentin get an allergic reaction or potentially serious skin reaction which may develop into more serious problems if they are not treated. You need to know the symptoms to look out for and what to do if you are taking gabapentin. Read the information in subsection 4.2 of this leaflet under 'If you notice any skin symptoms'.

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 the muscle disorder which can be life-threatening. You need to know what to do if you notice symptoms of muscle weakness, tenderness or pain. If you notice any skin symptoms, please contact your doctor immediately.

Children and adolescents
There is limited data available on the effects of long-term gabapentin therapy (> 36 weeks); therefore the benefits must be weighed against the potential risks.

Gabapentin is not recommended for use in children under 12 years of age.

Other medicines and gabapentin
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without prescription. In particular, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have been taking any medicines for depression, anxiety or any other mood-altering psychiatric condition. 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. In addition, combination of gabapentin with opioids may cause symptoms like sleepiness and/ or decreases in breathing.

Antidepressants for Indication
The absorption of gabapentin from the stomach may be reduced if you are taking any medicines used to treat ulcer (antiacid containing aluminum and magnesium) at the same time. It is therefore recommended that gabapentin is taken at the earliest two hours after taking an antiacid.

Gebapetin is not expected to interact with other drugs against epilepsy or your oral contraceptive pill.

Gebapetin may interfere with some laboratory tests, if you require a urine test tell your doctor or hospital what you are taking.

Gebapetin with food
Gebapetin can be taken with or without food.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

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

Breast-feeding
Gebapetin is passed on through human milk. Because the effect on the baby is unknown, it is not recommended to breast-feed while using Gebapetin.

Fertility
There is no effect on fertility in animal studies.

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

Gebapenln Zentiva Capsules contains lactose If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

How to take gabapentin
Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Your doctor will determine what dose is appropriate for you.

If you take gabapentin to treat epilepsy the recommended dose is:

Adults and adolescents
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 300mg and 900mg each day.

Thereafter, the dose may be increased progressively up to a maximum of 1,800mg each day. Your doctor will tell you to take the dose in 3 divided doses, i.e., once in the morning, once in the afternoon and once in the evening.

Children 3 years of age and above
The dose to be given to your child will be decided by your doctor as it is calculated according to your child’s weight. The treatment is started by giving a 300mg dosage once per day. The usual dose to control epilepsy is 20-30 mg/kg/day.

It is usually given in 3 divided doses, by taking the capsule(s) each day, usually once in the morning, once in the afternoon and once in the evening.

It is not recommended for use in children below 6 years of age.

If you take gabapentin to relieve 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 300mg and 900mg each day.

Thereafter, the dose may be increased progressively up to a maximum of 3,600mg each day. Your doctor will tell you to take the dose in 3 divided 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 a problem with your kidneys or are undergoing haemodialysis.

If you are an elderly patient (over 65 years old), you should take gabapentin as indicated unless you have problems with your kidneys. Your doctor may prescribe a different dosing schedule and/or dose if you have a problem with your kidneys.
If you have the impression that the effect of gabapentin is too strong or too weak, talk to your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible.

Method of administration

Gabapentin to be used orally. Always swallow the capsules with plenty of water.

Continue taking gabapentin until your doctor tells you to stop. You should not stop taking this medicine without medical advice.

If you take more gabapentin than you should

Higher than recommended doses may result in an increase in side effects including loss of consciousness, dizziness, drowsiness, and tiredness.

Call your doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency unit immediately if you take more gabapentin 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

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

Do not stop taking gabapentin unless your doctor tells you to. If your treatment is stopped, it should be done gradually over a minimum of 1 week. If you stop taking gabapentin suddenly or before your doctor tells you, there is an increased risk of seizures, if you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

MISCELLANEOUS EFFECTS

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Stop taking this medicine and see a doctor at once if you experience any of the following symptoms 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).
- itching, peeling or bleeding of the skin around the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitalia. You may also have flu-like symptoms and a fever, which could be symptoms of Stevens-Johnson syndrome.
- swelling of your skin or mouth. Redness and fever. This may be due to inflammation of the liver or changes in the skin of your face.
- severe dizziness, drowsiness, light-headedness, weakness, and feeling sick. There may be symptoms of acute pancreatitis (severe stomach pain, high temperature, nausea, vomiting).
- frequent infections such as fever, sore throat, cold or flu. This may be due to a lower than normal white blood cell count (a sign of a blood cell disease).
- decreased platelets (blood clotting cells).
- shortness of breath (less than normal). This could be because of a blood problem (hemorrhaging).
- seeing or hearing things which are not there (hallucinations).
- problems with abnormal movements such as wringing, jerky movements and stiffness.
- ringing in the ears (tinnitus).
- kidney disease (acute kidney failure). Symptoms may include an increase in the need to pass water, passing of very small amounts of water, feeling tired, swelling of the hands and feet and a shortness of breath.
- difficulty breathing, swelling of the lips, throat and tongue or dizziness, Lightheadedness or fainting (due to low blood pressure)
- requiring emergency treatment. These may be signs of a serious, possibly life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).
- breathing problems, which in some cases may need emergency and intensive care to continue breathing normally.
- Gabapentin may cause a serious or life-threatening allergic reaction that may affect your skin or other parts of your body such as lips or other blood cells. You may or may not have rash when you get this type of reaction. It may cause you to be hospitalized or in stop gabapentin.
- Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following symptoms:

  - nausea
  - rash
  - lice
  - pain
  - swollen glands that do not go away
  - swelling in your eye and tongue
  - yellowing of your skin or 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 allergic reaction. A doctor should examine you to decide if you should continue taking gabapentin.

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):

  - diarrhoea
  - feeling dizzy, dizzy, lack of coordination
  - feeling tired, fever

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

  - pain, headache
  - runny nose
  - sneezing
  - cough
  - high blood pressure: flushing or dilatation of blood vessels
  - difficulty breathing, bronchial asthma, wheezy breath, rough, dry nose
  - vomiting (being sick), nausea (feeling sick), problems with breath, inflamed gums, dizziness, stomach pain, indigestion, constipation, dry mouth or throat, flatulence
  - facial swelling, hives, rash, itch, acne
  - joint pain, muscle pain, back pain, blistering
  - difficulty with urination (impotence)
  - swelling in the legs and arms, difficulty in walking, weakness, pain, feeling unusual, sleepless symptoms
  - increase in weight
  - accidental injury, fracture, atrioventricular
  - uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

    - decreased movement
    - dizziness
    - mental impairment
    - racing heart beat
    - swelling that may involve the face, body and limbs
    - abnormal blood test results suggesting problems with the liver
    - increased in blood glucose levels (most often observed in patients with diabetes)
    - agitation (a state of chronic restlessness and unproductive motions)

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

  - loss of consciousness
  - increased in blood glucose levels (most often observed in patients with diabetes)
  - trouble breathing, shallow breathing (respiratory depression)

- Not known (cannot be estimated from available data):

  - a group of side effects that could include swelling lymph nodes (isolated small raised lumps under skin), fever, rash, and pain in bone accompanying:
    - incontinence (leakage of urine which you cannot control), increased breast tissue, breast enlargement
    - side effects following the sudden stopping of gabapentin (anxiety, difficulty in sleeping, feeling sick, pain, swelling, chest, breakdown of bone, bone disease, loss of appetite, weight loss, fatigue, joint pain)
    - low blood sodium level (hyposatremia)
    - change in blood test results (creatinine phosphokinase increased).

- problems with sexual functioning including inability to achieve a sexual climax, delayed ejaculation.

Additional side effects in children and adolescence

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

Recording of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this booklet. 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.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF REMAINING MEDICINE

Keep out of sight and reach of children.

Do not store above 25°C.

Do not use these capsules after the expiry date which is stated on the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. Do not throw away medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer need. These measures will help to protect the environment.

5. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

What Gabapentin Zentiva Capsules contain

The active substance is gabapentin. Each capsule contains either 100mg, 300mg or 400mg of gabapentin.

The other ingredients are:

Gabapentin Zentiva 100mg Capsules: liquid glycerol, sorbitol, menthol, saccharin sodium, white powder; yellow, sodium dioside (E117) and gelatin.

Gabapentin Zentiva 300mg Capsules: lactose monohydrate, maize starch, talc, titanium dioxide (E171), yellow iron oxide (E172) and gelatin.

Gabapentin Zentiva 400mg Capsules: lactose monohydrate, maize starch, talc, titanium dioxide (E171), yellow iron oxide (E172), red iron oxide (E172) and gelatin.

The printing ink used on the capsule containers: shellac (E046), Tinum (E171) and FD&C Blue 1 and Brilliant Blue FCF Lake (E133).

What Gabapentin Zentiva Capsule looks like and contents of the pack

Gabapentin Zentiva Capsule 100mg Capsules are yellow, hard capsules marked S154 on one side.

Gabapentin Zentiva Capsule 300mg Capsules are yellow, hard capsules marked S155 on one side.

Gabapentin Zentiva Capsule 400mg Capsules are orange-yellow, hard capsules marked S156 on one side.

Pack size:

100 capsules

Marketing Authorization Holder and Manufacturer:

Zentiva S.A., Ondine Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4YS, UK

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