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2. Neurontin

# Neurontin

**Generic name:** [gabapentin](#) [ GA-ba-PEN-tin ]

**Drug class:** [Gamma-aminobutyric acid analogs](#)

Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Feb 21, 2025.

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## What is Neurontin?

Neurontin is an anti-epileptic drug, also called an [anticonvulsant](#). It affects chemicals and nerves in the body that are involved in the cause of seizures and some types of pain.

Neurontin is used in adults to treat [neuropathic pain \(nerve pain\)](#) caused by herpes virus or shingles (herpes zoster).

Neurontin is also used to treat [seizures](#) in adults and children who are at least 3 years old.

**Use only the brand and form of gabapentin your doctor has prescribed.** Check your medicine each time you get a refill to make sure you receive the correct form.

## Warnings

Do not stop using Neurontin suddenly, even if you feel fine.

Gabapentin can cause life-threatening breathing problems, especially if you already have a breathing disorder or if you use other medicines that can make you drowsy or slow your breathing. Seek emergency medical attention if you have very slow breathing.

Some people have thoughts about suicide or behavior changes while taking Neurontin. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor.

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you. **Dizziness or drowsiness can cause falls, accidents, or severe injuries.**

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use Neurontin if you are allergic to gabapentin.

To make sure Neurontin is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- breathing problems or lung disease, such as [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#) (COPD);

- kidney disease (or if you are on dialysis);
- diabetes;
- [depression](#), a [mood disorder](#), or suicidal thoughts or actions;
- a [drug addiction](#);
- a seizure (unless you take Neurontin to treat seizures);
- liver disease;
- heart disease; or
- (for patients with RLS) if you are a day sleeper or work a night shift.

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking this medicine. Children taking Neurontin may have behavior changes. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor.

It is not known whether this medicine will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

Seizure control is very important during pregnancy, and having a seizure could harm both mother and baby. **Do not start or stop taking Neurontin for seizures without your doctor's advice, and tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.**

If you are pregnant, your name may be listed on a pregnancy registry to track the effects of gabapentin on the baby.

**It may not be safe to breastfeed while using this medicine.** Ask your doctor about any risk.

 [Neurontin pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I take Neurontin?

Take Neurontin exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

**If your doctor changes your brand, strength, or type of gabapentin, your dosage needs may change.** Ask your pharmacist if you have any questions about the new kind of gabapentin you receive at the pharmacy.

Neurontin can be taken with or without food.

If you break a tablet and take only half of it, take the other half at your next dose. Any tablet that has been broken should be used as soon as possible or within a few days.

Swallow the **capsule** or **tablet** whole and do not crush, chew, break, or open it.

Measure liquid medicine carefully. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Do not stop using Neurontin suddenly, even if you feel fine. Stopping suddenly may cause increased seizures. Follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

In case of emergency, wear or carry medical identification to let others know you have seizures.

This medicine can cause unusual results with certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using

Neurontin.

Store Neurontin **tablets** and **capsules** at room temperature away from light and moisture.

Store the **liquid** medicine in the refrigerator. Do not freeze.

 [Neurontin patient tips](#) (more detail)

## Dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose for Epilepsy:

Initial dose: 300 mg orally on day one, 300 mg orally 2 times day on day two, then 300 mg orally 3 times a day on day three

Maintenance dose: 300 to 600 mg orally 3 times a day

Maximum dose: 3600 mg orally daily (in 3 divided doses)

-Maximum time between doses in the 3 times a day schedule should not exceed 12 hours

Comment:

-May be taken with or without food.

-Half-tablets not used within 28 days of breaking the scored tablet should be discarded.

Use: Adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial onset seizures, with and without secondary generalization

### Usual Adult Dose for Postherpetic Neuralgia:

-Initial dose: 300 mg orally on day one, 300 mg orally 2 times day on day two, then 300 mg orally 3 times a day on day three

-Titrate up as needed for pain relief

-Maximum dose: 1800 mg per day (600 mg orally 3 times a day)

COMMENT:

-May be taken with or without food.

-Half-tablets not used within 28 days of breaking the scored tablet should be discarded.

### Usual Pediatric Dose for Epilepsy:

Less than 3 years: Not recommended

Greater than or equal to 3 and less than 12 years:

Starting Dose: Ranges from 10 to 15 mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses

Effective Dose: Reached by upward titration over a period of approximately 3 days; the effective dose in patients 5 years of age and older is 25 to 35 mg/kg/day in divided doses (3 times a day). The effective dose in pediatric patients ages 3 and 4 years is 40 mg/kg/day and given in divided doses (3 times a day). Gabapentin may be administered as capsule, or tablet, or using combinations of these formulations. Dosages up to 50 mg/kg/day have been well tolerated in a long term clinical study. The maximum time interval between doses should not exceed 12 hours.

Greater than 12 years:

-Initial dose: 300 mg orally on day one, 300 mg orally 2 times a day on day two, then 300 mg orally 3 times a day on day three

-Maintenance dose: 900 to 1800 mg orally in 3 divided doses; the dose may be increased up to 1800 mg/day. Dosages up to 2400 mg/day have been well tolerated in long term clinical studies. Doses of 3600 mg/day have also been administered to a small number of patients for a relatively short duration, and have been well tolerated. The maximum time between doses in the three times a day schedule should not exceed 12 hours.

Use: Adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial onset seizures, with and without secondary generalization in patients 3 years of age and older

 [Detailed Neurontin dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not take two doses at one time.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What to avoid

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

**Dizziness or drowsiness can cause falls, accidents, or severe injuries.**

Avoid taking an antacid within 2 hours before you take Neurontin. [Antacids](#) can make it harder for your body to absorb gabapentin.

Avoid drinking alcohol while taking Neurontin.

## Neurontin side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Neurontin**: [hives](#); difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**Seek medical treatment if you have a serious drug reaction that can affect many parts of your body.** Symptoms may include: [skin rash](#), fever, swollen glands, muscle aches, severe weakness, unusual bruising, upper stomach pain, or yellowing of your skin or eyes.

Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor, such as: mood or behavior changes, [anxiety](#), [panic attacks](#), trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, hostile, aggressive, restless, hyperactive (mentally or physically), depressed, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- weak or shallow breathing;
- blue-colored skin, lips, fingers, and toes;
- confusion, extreme drowsiness or weakness;

- problems with balance or muscle movement;
- unusual or involuntary eye movements; or
- increased seizures.

**Gabapentin can cause life-threatening breathing problems.** A person caring for you should seek emergency medical attention if you have slow breathing with long pauses, blue colored lips, or if you are hard to wake up. Breathing problems may be more likely in older adults or in people with COPD.

**Some side effects are more likely in children taking Neurontin.** Contact your doctor if the child taking this medicine has any of the following side effects:

- changes in behavior;
- memory problems;
- trouble concentrating; or
- acting restless, hostile, or aggressive.

Common Neurontin side effects may include:

- fever, chills, sore throat, body aches, unusual tiredness;
- jerky movements;
- headache;
- double vision;
- swelling of your legs and feet;
- tremors;
- trouble speaking;
- dizziness, drowsiness, tiredness;
- problems with balance or eye movements; or
- nausea, vomiting.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Neurontin side effects](#) (more detail)

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## What other drugs will affect Neurontin?

**Using Neurontin with other drugs that make you drowsy or slow your breathing can cause dangerous side effects or death.** Ask your doctor before using opioid medication, a sleeping pill, cold or allergy medicine, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety or seizures.

other drugs may interact with gabapentin, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Neurontin drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does Neurontin interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Neurontin

+

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## Patient resources

- [Neurontin \(Gabapentin Tablets 600 mg and 800 mg\) patient information](#)

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- [Neurontin prescribing information](#)
- [Gabapentin \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

## Other brands

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## Related treatment guides

- [Postherpetic Neuralgia](#)
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## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Neurontin only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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### DRUG STATUS

#### Availability

**Rx** Prescription only

#### Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

### CSA Schedule\*

N/A Varies by state



### Approval History

10+ years FDA approved 1993



## User Reviews & Ratings

7.4 / 10

[195 Reviews](#)

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[Neurontin 600 mg \(NT 16\)](#)



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