

Neurontin (gabapentin)



What is it usually prescribed for?

Seizures (convulsions), postherpetic neuralgia, anxiety, and other conditions



How does it work?

Neurontin helps improve seizures (convulsions), pain, and fear or worry. Neurontin works by reducing excessive brain activity and release of brain chemicals.



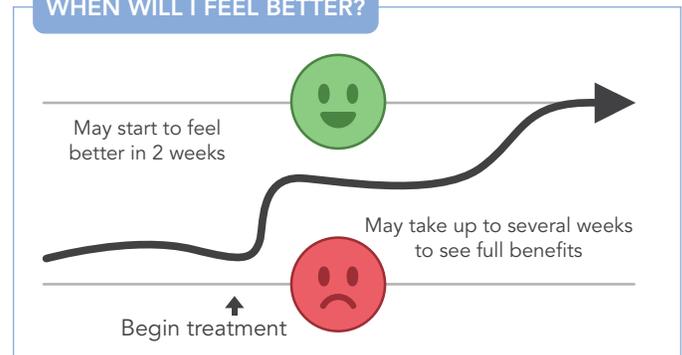
What should I expect?

Symptoms get better the longer you take Neurontin. Some symptoms may improve in 2 weeks. It may take up to several weeks for you to see the full benefits of Neurontin.

Your healthcare professional will start with a low dose that is slowly increased to find the best dose that works for you. Tell your healthcare professional about how it's working for you and if you have any side effects so the dose can be changed if needed.

Take Neurontin exactly as prescribed to get the full benefit of this medicine.

WHEN WILL I FEEL BETTER?



Will I have side effects?

You may or may not have side effects when taking Neurontin. Some side effects go away with time, but others require changes to the dose. The risk of some side effects increases with larger doses.

In most cases, treatment is necessary for a long time to control symptoms. Long-term use of Neurontin is generally safe.

What are common side effects and what can I do to feel better?

If your side effects are mild, talk to your healthcare professional about them at your next appointment.

	Drink less alcohol	Do more exercise	Drink plenty of water	Healthcare professional suggestion
Nausea or throwing up	X		X	
Headache	X	X	X	
Feeling dizzy	X		X	
Feeling drowsy	X	X	X	
Swelling of legs and feet	X		X	

Note: This is not a complete list of side effects; other side effects are possible. Before starting Neurontin, tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you are taking to avoid unexpected side effects.



Neurontin (gabapentin)

YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

In 2019 Neurontin was prescribed over 47.1 million times in the United States.

What should I avoid?

Don't start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs, or herbal remedies without talking to your healthcare professional first. There are some interactions with medicines that may increase your chance of side effects.

Do not suddenly stop taking Neurontin unless your healthcare professional has told you to because your symptoms may return.

Use less alcohol and recreational drugs. They may decrease the benefits of Neurontin and increase the chance of side effects.

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

-  It may take up to several weeks for you to feel the full benefits of taking this medicine
-  Tell your healthcare professional about any troubling side effects so that you can work together to address them
-  Take exactly as prescribed and do not suddenly stop taking this medicine unless told to do so by a healthcare professional
-  Do not start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs, or herbal remedies without talking to your healthcare professional
-  Get medical care right away if you have serious side effects



When should I call a healthcare professional right away or visit the emergency room?

If you have any **serious** side effects. Here are some examples of serious side effects:

- Unusual thoughts or behavior, including thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself
- Weak or shallow breathing
- Blue-colored skin, lips, fingers, or toes
- Confusion, extreme drowsiness or weakness
- Problems with balance or muscle movement
- Unusual or involuntary eye movements
- Increased seizures (convulsions)

If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center (800-222-1222) or get medical care right away.



Where can I get more help?

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – nami.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line – Text "HELLO" to 741741



Notes and questions for my next appointment

