

**Information for adult
patients using
Gabapentin in the
prevention of migraine
headaches**

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Neurology Services

The aim of this leaflet is to give you information about using Gabapentin in the prevention of migraine headaches.

Why do I need Gabapentin?

Gabapentin can be useful in the **preventive** treatment of migraine. It is also used in other conditions such as neuralgia (nerve pain) or epilepsy.

How long will Gabapentin take to work?

You should notice that your pain starts to improve within a few weeks of starting Gabapentin. If there is no improvement after about twelve weeks, a different preventive therapy should be considered.

How should I take Gabapentin?

Gabapentin is started at a low dose of 300mg at night and increased gradually to minimise any side effects. The lowest effective dose that should be used is commonly between 600mg and 1200mg daily for migraine prevention. If it is helping your headaches continue taking it for six months.

Side-effects

Dizziness, drowsiness, unsteadiness and/or nausea may occur when you first start taking this medication and it is sensible not to drive until side effects such as dizziness and drowsiness resolve. If you experience depression while taking this drug, let your doctor know and an alternative preventive agent may be required. Alcohol consumption may make side effects more pronounced.

Do not take Gabapentin if you are allergic to this drug or you are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding.

*This leaflet is intended to provide a brief overview of aspects of this treatment protocol. It is not intended as a substitute for the comprehensive 'product information' leaflet found inside all boxes of medication. The 'product information' leaflet should always be read before taking medication. The use of any medicine is based on considerations of how benefits outweigh potential side effects. Although Gabapentin is widely used for the treatment for Migraine, Neuralgia and Epilepsy, Gabapentin is not licensed for the treatment of Migraine.