

## Gabapentin

### - Drug Information

#### **Brand Names:**

Gabapentin, Neurotonin®

#### **Pharmacology:**

Enhances release and action of GABA in the brain and inhibits neuronal sodium channels.

#### **Indications:**

Used as an anticonvulsant in the treatment of seizure disorders in dogs.

Also used as an analgesic agent.

#### **Contraindications:**

##### **- General**

Veterinary studies of the use of this drug are limited. Use with caution.

Use with caution in patients with kidney disease and possibly with reduced dose.

#### **Interactions:**

##### **- General Interactions**

No identified General Interactions at time of publishing.

##### **- Category Interactions**

- Antacid

Bioavailability of gabapentin is decreased if given with antacids. Separate doses by 2 hours.

##### **- Drug Interactions**

- HYDROcodone

Concomitant use may increase the efficacy of gabapentin and/or the risk for adverse effects of gabapentin. Also gabapentin may reduce the efficacy of HYDROcodone.

- Morphine sulfate

May increase gabapentin levels.

#### **Adverse Effects:**

##### **- General**

Veterinary studies of the use of this drug are limited.

Sudden withdrawal should be avoided. Dose should be decreased gradually over 1 week if discontinuing use when treating seizures.

Sedation, CNS depression - start with lower end dose and increase gradually may minimize these effects.

Humans have reported dizziness, sleepiness and peripheral edema.

#### **Dosages:**

##### **- General**

Sudden withdrawal should be avoided. Dose should be decreased gradually over 1 week if discontinuing use when treating seizures.

DO NOT USE THE HUMAN ORAL SOLUTION IN DOGS OR POSSIBLY ALSO CATS - contains xylitol which may cause hypoglycemia and may be hepatotoxic in dogs.

##### **- Small Animal**

- Dog

Initiate therapy with 10 mg/kg every 8 hours. The usual dose range is 25 - 60 mg/kg divided every 6 - 8 hours.

As an analgesic for treatment of chronic or cancer pain: 1.25 - 10 mg/kg by mouth once daily.

- Cat

For ancillary treatment of refractory seizures: 5 - 30 mg/kg by mouth two - three times a day

As an analgesic: 1.25 - 10 mg/kg by mouth every 24 hours.

For neuropathic pain: 5 - 10 mg/kg. Start at 5 mg/kg and increase to up to 10 mg/kg if no effect is seen in 2 hours. Wean off slowly or patient may experience worse pain.

**Special Notes:**

The use of this drug in veterinary patients is considered extra-label as no veterinary approved product is available. Information regarding its use is derived from general veterinary references such as those listed in the VPR Help File under references. For additional information consult the drug manufacturer. It remains the responsibility of the prescribing veterinarian to familiarize themselves with the package insert or additional information provided by the drug manufacturer.