

Gabapentin

Neurontin, Aclonium, Equipax, Gantin, Neurostil and Progresse are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Gabapentin is used to treat dogs with epilepsy, along with other anti-seizure medications.
- Gabapentin is also used as a medication for chronic pain in dogs and cats.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Gabapentin should be used with caution in dogs with kidney disease.
- Gabapentin is present in the milk, and should be used in pregnant or nursing mothers only when benefits outweigh potential risks.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Gabapentin can cause sleepiness, like most of the other antiseizure drugs.

How Should It Be Given?

- Gabapentin should not be stopped abruptly, as this can lead to increased seizure activity. The drug should be stopped only under the direction of your veterinarian, and should be withdrawn gradually over time.
- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, and give the next scheduled dose next time it is due.
- Gabapentin should not be given within 2 hours of antacids such as cimetidine (Tagamet), ranitidine (Zantac), famotidine (Pepcid), or omeprazole (Prilosec).
- Administering pain medications such as hydrocodone or morphine with gabapentin can increase its effectiveness and also possibly increase side effects.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- Dogs and Cats: Dogs usually receive this drug orally twice to three times daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Gabapentin should be stored in a childproof container away from all children and other household pets.