

Gabitril® (Tiagabine)

What is Gabitril® (Tiagabine)?

Gabitril® is an anti-epileptic drug that has been used to treat patients with epilepsy since 1997. It is helpful in the treatment of partial seizures.

Starting the Medicine:

We usually gradually increase the dose, until your body gets adjusted to the medication. Since each patient is unique in that he/she breaks down the medication differently or may need a higher or lower dosage to control their seizures, there is no standard dose that is appropriate for all patients.

What dosages does the pill come in and what does it look like?

4 mg round, yellow tablet

12 mg oval, green tablet

16 mg oval, blue tablet

20 mg oval, pink tablet

What Side Effects Can Be Caused By Gabitril®?

Side effects can be dose related (common) or idiosyncratic (rare):

Common Dose - Related Side Effects:

Dizziness, drowsiness, difficulty concentrating, or nausea may occur.

If you have these side effects, your doctor may:

- spread out the dose more frequently during the day
- slow the rate of dose increase

- instruct you to take the pills with food since this will slow the rate at which the medicine gets into the blood, but will not affect the total amount that is absorbed.

Rare Side Effects:

Rare side effects may include: difficulty sleeping, nervousness, or balance problems.

Skin Rash:

An allergic reaction, or rash, may occur with Gabitril. If this occurs, notify your doctor immediately.

Pregnancy:

Currently, no information is available about the effects of Gabitril during pregnancy. Any woman taking Gabitril should discuss this issue with her doctor BEFORE becoming pregnant.

How Do I Take This Medication?

It is very important to take your medication regularly since a stable blood level helps to reduce seizures. Therefore, the medication does not work when taken on an as needed basis. It is usually prescribed in 2 to 4 evenly divided doses taken at regular times.

Can I Take Gabitril With Other Medications?

Yes, Gabitril® can be taken with other medications. However, you should always tell your doctor about any other medications that you are taking. Also, if a new medication is prescribed for you, it should be checked to be sure that it can be taken with Gabitril®.

What Should I Do If I Miss a Dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. You may have to change your usual times taking Gabitril® when you are trying to make up the missed dose. If you have to “double up” on a dose, take that dose at bedtime.

Are Blood Levels Checked For Gabitril®?

Currently, little is known about the therapeutic range for blood levels for Gabitril. Therefore, levels may not be routinely checked. Dosing is usually based on patient tolerance and effectiveness in seizure control.

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