

GABAPENTIN (NEURONTIN®)

INDICATIONS

- 1) Chronic Pain Disorders
- 2) Treatment refractory anxiety disorders
- 3) Co-morbid anxiety in bipolar disorder (not as monotherapy)

PRECAUTIONS TO CONSIDER

Contraindications

Absolute:

- 1) History of anaphylactic reaction and similarly severe significant hypersensitivity to medication prescribed

Relative:

- 1) Renal Failure creatinine clearance < 15 ml/min
- 2) Pregnancy/nursing mothers

Precautions

- 1) Compromised renal function

Pregnancy and Breast-Feeding

See relative contraindications. FDA Pregnancy Category C. Lactation Risk L2.

Drug Interactions of Major Significance

- 1) Antacids (aluminum or magnesium hydroxide) – when taken within 2 hours of the dose

- 2) Hydrocodone (dose dependent)
- 3) Morphine
- 4) Concomitant CNS depressants

Age-Specific Considerations

Safety and efficacy in children < 12 has not been established.

Increased neuropsychiatric effects in children (emotional lability, hostility, thought disorder, hyperkinesia)

Clearance can be decreased in the elderly due to decrease in renal function.

Side effects such as peripheral edema, ataxia increase with age

Side Effects Which Require Medical Attention

- 1) Blurred or double vision
- 2) Clinically significant weight gain
- 3) Rhinitis
- 4) Tremor
- 5) Nausea, vomiting diarrhea or abdominal discomfort
- 6) Drowsiness, lethargy
- 7) Nystagmus
- 8) Dizziness

- 9) Ataxia
- 10) Peripheral edema
- 11) Rash, fever, lymphadenopathy

PATIENT MONITORING

Patient Monitoring Parameters

- 1) Renal Function Test - baseline and as clinically indicated
- 2) Monitor for emergence of suicidal ideation or behavior

Dosing

See DSHS/DADS Drug Formulary for dosage guidelines.
Exceptions to maximum dosage must be justified as per medication rule.
Bioavailability decreases as the dose increases.