

Gabapentin Capsules

Anti-Convulsant and Pain Control

Gabapentin is used to treat both seizures and to relieve chronic pain in dogs and cats. Gabapentin is given alone or with other anti-convulsants to control seizures. It is also used to treat neuropathic pain and chronic pain originating from cancer and arthritis.

Analgesic in dogs and cats:

Gabapentin is used to treat chronic pain and is most effective for treating neuropathic pain (pain that results from damage or dysfunction in the nervous system). It is also frequently used to treat pain originating from various types of cancer and chronic arthritic pain. Gabapentin can be given with other types of analgesic medications, like NASIDs, permitting the use of lower doses.

Seizure control in dogs and cats:

Gabapentin is used to treat refractory idiopathic epilepsy in dogs and cats that have not responded favorably to other types of anti-convulsants. Gabapentin can be used as the sole form of treatment, or can be used in conjunction with other anti-epileptic medications.

Gabapentin is increasingly given as a first choice for treatment of seizures and epilepsy in place of more traditional medications such as phenobarbital.

Horses:

Gabapentin may be used to control seizures in foals suffering from hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy.

Dosage for dogs and cats:

- For ancillary therapy of refractory seizures: 10-30 mg/kg orally every 8 hours
- For adjunctive treatment of chronic or cancer pain: 3 mg/kg orally once a day

Side Effects:

The most common side effect is mild sedation and ataxia. Monitor your pets for symptoms of incoordination or drowsiness.

Gabapentin is metabolized in the liver and eliminated from the body almost entirely in the urine. Gabapentin should be used with in animals with decreased kidney or liver function.

Gabapentin should not be discontinued abruptly because of the potential of withdrawal seizures or rebound pain. The dosage should be decreased over the course of two to three weeks.

Human labeled liquid gabapentin often contains xylitol which can be hepatotoxic in dogs and should be avoided.