

Participant Information Leaflet: Appendix

Possible side effects of gabapentin

In studies of patients with either epilepsy or long-term pain, who **take gabapentin for over long periods of time**, the following side effects were classified as 'very common' (affect around 1 in 10 people):

- viral infection
- fatigue, drowsiness, dizziness
- uncontrolled body movements
- fever

The following side effects were classified as 'common' (affect around 1 in 100 people):

- infections (e.g. respiratory, bladder, ear)
- low levels of certain white blood cells
- weight loss, weight gain
- changes in mood
- abnormal/uncontrolled muscle movements
- slurred speech
- insomnia (difficulty sleeping)
- headache
- partial memory loss
- sensations (e.g. pins and needles, numbness, involuntary eye movements)
- visual disturbances (e.g. double vision)
- vertigo
- high blood pressure
- breathing problems, bronchitis, cough
- gastro-intestinal problems (e.g. vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, indigestion, constipation, flatulence)
- facial bruising/swelling
- joint/muscle pain
- impotence
- swelling in the feet or ankles
- weakness, pain, malaise, flu syndrome
- accidental injury, fracture, abrasion

The following are classified as 'uncommon' (affect around 1 in 1000 people):

- allergic reactions (e.g. hives)
- high blood sugar (usually diabetic patients)

- agitation
- decreased body movement
- mental impairment
- strong/irregular heart beat
- excess fluid build-up in the body
- abnormal liver function
- fall

The following are classified as 'rare' (affect around 1 in 10,000 people):

- low blood sugar (usually diabetic patients)
- fainting

In addition, the following side effects have been reported in some patients but we do not know how common they are:

- bleeding, bruising
- allergic reactions
- hallucinations
- ringing in the ears
- inflammation of the pancreas
- inflammation of the liver
- skin reactions
- muscle disorders
- kidney problems, incontinence
- enlarged breast tissue (in men and women)
- sexual dysfunction
- physical or emotional disorders (e.g. anxiety, insomnia, pains, sweating)
- chest pain
- changes in blood test results
- sudden unexplained deaths have been reported but a causal relationship to gabapentin has not been established

There may also be side effects that have not been identified yet.

If you suffer these or any other symptoms during the study please contact your local research nurse or doctor as soon as possible, unless it is serious, in which case seek immediate medical attention.