Gabapentin

Gabapentin, brand name Neurontin, has many uses, including:

- Anti-convulsant/epilepsy treatment (adjunctive)
- Partial and generalized seizures
- Neuropathic and chronic pain syndromes
- Postherpetic neuralgia & diabetic peripheral neuropathy
- Bipolar disorder, social phobia disorder, agitation in dementia
- Hot flashes
- Essential tremor
- Migraines
- Hyperhidrosis
- Uremic pruritis

DOSING: Low doses for pain & other; higher doses for anticonvulsant effects

- Seizures: 300 mg 3 times/daily, withdraw slowly to prevent increased seizures (adult)
- Pain & other uses: 100 mg 3 times daily, gradually increase (max 1800 mg/day)
- Children ages 3 and older: 5-50 mg/kg day in 3 divided doses (seizures)

PRECAUTIONS: Pregnancy Category C.

Drowsiness is most common side effect; start doses at bedtime. Drowsiness decreases as patient tolerance increases over 2-3 weeks. Start dosage low and titrate up over 1-6 weeks.

May take without attention to food (any GI upset may be decreased by taking after food).

Excreted mainly by KIDNEY, so reduce dose or frequency with renal insufficiency and in the elderly.