



Jeff Donovan MD PhD FRCPC

Dermatologist, specializing in hair loss

750 West Broadway Suite 905 - Vancouver BC V5Z 1H8
Email: vancouveroffice@donovanmedical.com Web: www.donovanmedical.com

INFORMATION ON TOPICAL GABAPENTIN

What is GABAPENTIN?

- This is a type of anti-seizure medication which blocks nerves. It can also be used to reduce itching, pain, burning in the scalp.
- Topical gabapentin refers to a form of gabapentin that is used topically rather than orally.

How is TOPICAL GABAPENTIN prescribed?

- Dr. Donovan will guide you as to how much topical gabapentin to use.
- The medication comes as a 6 % topical solution (usually). Normally between 0.5 to 1 mL is used when the medication is applied.

Please use as follows: _____

- DO NOT STOP TOPICAL GABAPENTIN SUDDENLY. It needs to be decreased slowly.

What conditions IS GABAPENTIN be used for?

- ORAL Gabapentin is used for seizure disorders but can also be used for skin and scalp itching, Pain disorders, Pain after shingles, and Scalp Burning
- If you are being prescribed topical gabapentin, it is likely that you have some form of persistent scalp symptoms.

Who will not be prescribed GABAPENTIN?

1. Someone with allergy to the drug
2. Women trying to become pregnant

What are the side effects of TOPICAL GABAPENTIN?

To date, we have not seen a large number of side effects from topical gabapentin, likely because there is not much absorption of the medication.

The Following are well recognized side effects of ORAL GABAPENTIN

- SUICIDAL THOUGHTS and BEHAVIOURS are rare but will be discussed.
- Dizziness,
- Sleepiness,
- Swelling in legs
- Nausea (please take oral gabapentin with food),
- Dry mouth,
- Diarrhea or constipation
- increased blood pressure,
- Headaches,
- Changes in appetite.

Is any blood work needed while taking TOPICAL GABAPENTIN?

No, blood tests are not typically required.

