

# The Carlat Psychiatry Report

## GABITRIL (tiagabine) Fact Sheet

**Manufacturer:** Cephalon

**Indications:**

- Adjunctive treatment of epilepsy.
- A small amount of evidence for efficacy in anxiety; used sometimes for substance abusers as a non-addictive alternative to benzos, but evidence of efficacy for this is lacking.

**Mechanism:** GABA Reuptake Inhibitor

**Dosing:**

- Supplied in 2 mg, 4 mg, 12 mg, and 16 mg tablets.
- Dosing recommendations in PDR are applicable to epileptic patients already on other anti-seizure meds that induce Gabitril's metabolism, so these are not applicable to typical psychiatric dosing.
- In psychiatry, anecdotal reports suggest starting at 2 mg BID and increasing by 2 mg increments as needed. Max recommended PDR dose is 32 mg QD.
- No dose adjustment required for elderly or in renal impairment. Reduce dose in patients with hepatic impairment.

**Side Effects:**

- Most common are dizziness, sedation, jitteriness, tremor, and impaired memory/concentration.
- Postmarketing reports have shown that Gabitril can induce seizures in patients with no history of epilepsy, although this is rare.

**Drug-drug Interactions:**

- Metabolized by CYP 3A and several other enzymes. Enzyme inducers such as Tegretol (carbamazepine) may decrease Gabitril levels.

**Pearls:**

- High fat meals decrease rate of absorption.
- Half-life 7-9 hours.