

Phenytoin is a medication that is commonly used to treat seizures, and sometimes used to treat trigeminal neuralgia crises. It works by stabilising the electrical activity in the brain and nerves, preventing seizures and reducing pain from inappropriate pain transmission.

When taking phenytoin, it is important to follow your doctor's instructions carefully. You should take the medication at the same time each day, with or without food. Do not stop taking phenytoin suddenly, as this can cause seizures to return or worsen. Instead, talk to your doctor about gradually tapering off the medication.

It is also important to let your doctor know about any other medications or supplements you are taking, as phenytoin can interact with other drugs. Your doctor may need to adjust your dosage or monitor you more closely if you are taking other medications.

Phenytoin can cause some side effects, including drowsiness, dizziness, and coordination problems. If you experience any of these symptoms, do not drive or operate heavy machinery until you feel better. You should also avoid drinking alcohol while taking phenytoin.

If you are taking phenytoin for trigeminal neuralgia crises, it is usually given through a drip into a vein (intravenous/IV). You may experience relief from the pain within a few hours of taking the medication.

However, if you are taking it for seizures, it is usually taken as a tablet or liquid and it can take several weeks for the medication to start working effectively.

If you experience any severe side effects, such as a rash, fever, or swelling, seek medical attention immediately. Your doctor may need to adjust your dosage or switch you to a different medication.

Overall, phenytoin can be an effective medication for treating seizures and trigeminal neuralgia crises, but it is important to take it as directed and to communicate with your doctor about any concerns or issues you may have.