

**Here are this week's health care news highlights from AskaPatient:**

- Episodes of depression in younger years are strongly linked to memory problems in fifties. <http://ow.ly/XK8k30oaCzv> (03-25-19)
- Algae taken in capsules could help prevent some amputations by restoring blood flow to ischemic limbs. <http://ow.ly/9ZwX30oaCHz> (03-25-19)
- Recent Alzheimer's trial joins a long list of failed late-stage studies after billions of dollars invested in an experimental treatment. <http://ow.ly/BURw30oaCKp> (03-25-19)
- America's decentralized healthcare record keeping leads to unnecessary tests and frustrated patients and doctors. <http://ow.ly/hEk430oaCO9> (03-26-19)
- Treating tuberculosis with aspirin shuts down the infection's ability to hijack the blood's clotting system. <http://ow.ly/c6Es30obJ1L> (03-26-19)
- Leaving diabetes untreated accelerates the development of dementia and Alzheimer's. <http://ow.ly/l4ze30obJ5r> (03-26-19)
- Over 90 percent of Americans have pesticides or their byproducts in their bodies, with no monitoring of effects on farmworkers. <http://ow.ly/oTyZ30ocGfN> (03-27-19)
- Patient violence against healthcare staff is becoming normalized and often goes unreported over fear of reprisal. <http://ow.ly/OmBu30ocGmk> (03-27-19)
- New microgel releases targeted micro-doses of antibiotics to protect medical implants from infection. <http://ow.ly/wJk30ocGp7> (03-27-19)
- County in New York declares state of emergency over measles outbreak, bans unvaccinated children from public places. <http://ow.ly/wKG830odMng> (03-28-19)
- Rural West Virginia needs more neurologists to treat the thousands with chronic migraines. <http://ow.ly/vfvK30odMrr> (03-28-19)
- Air pollution may increase the likelihood of having psychotic episodes through adolescence. <http://ow.ly/EDdU30odMv0> (03-28-19)
- Mutation of a newly-discovered gene makes a 66 year-old woman virtually immune to pain and heal more quickly. <http://ow.ly/vIZU30oeKpB> (03-29-19)
- New nanomaterial may boost immune system of people with gut bacteria that cause metabolic disorders. <http://ow.ly/VGXO30oeKCN> (03-29-19)
- Experimental stomach cancer prevention drug also tames the bacterium that can cause ulcers and stomach cancer. <http://ow.ly/YjLd30oeKLN> (03-29-19)
- Unexpected relationship between bacteria and a virus allows chronic infections to evade the immune system. <http://ow.ly/tpG730ofMoU> (03-30-19)
- Omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids in the diet have opposite effects on the severity of asthma in children. <http://ow.ly/a4KK30ofMpt> (03-30-19)

**Next week's feature: the many off-label uses of gabapentin**

**Gabapentin** (brand name **Neurontin** or **Gralise**) is one of the top-ten most prescribed drugs in the U.S. While it is FDA-approved to treat **epilepsy** and **post-herpetic neuralgia** (nerve pain after shingles), it is used **off-label** for many other conditions. Some estimate that 90% of gabapentin prescriptions are for off-label uses. These include treatments for anxiety, drug or alcohol withdrawal, migraine headaches, chronic pain, bipolar, and fibromyalgia. Next week, we'll look at some of the common off-label uses of gabapentin.

Check out a sampling of patient reviews for:

- **Gabapentin** at <https://www.askapatient.com/viewrating.asp?drug=75350&name=GABAPENTIN>

- Neurontin at <https://www.askapatient.com/viewrating.asp?drug=20235&name=NEURONTIN>
- Gralise at <https://www.askapatient.com/viewrating.asp?drug=22544&name=GRALISE>

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