

Select Adjuvant Agents for Neuropathic Pain

Agent	Medication Class	Starting Dose	Titration	Max daily dose	Side Effects
Amitriptyline (Elavil)	TCAs	10-25 mg QHS	Increase 10-25 mg/day weekly as tolerated	75-150 mg/day; can continue if drug level <100 ng/ml	Drowsiness, dry mouth, dizziness, constipation, palpitations, orthostatic hypotension
Doxepin (Sinequan)	TCAs	10-25 mg QHS	Increase 10-25 mg/day weekly as tolerated	75-150 mg/day; can continue if drug level <100 ng/ml	Drowsiness, dry mouth, dizziness, constipation, blurred vision, palpitations
Desipramine (Norpramin)	TCAs/norepi inhibition	10-25 mg QHS	Increase 10-25 mg/day weekly as tolerated	75-150 mg/day; can continue if drug level <100 ng/ml	Drowsiness, dry mouth, dizziness, constipation, blurred vision, palpitations
Nortriptyline (Pamelor)	TCAs	10-25 mg QHS	Increase 10-25 mg/day weekly	75-150 mg/day	Less side effects than amitriptyline
Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	SNRIs	30-60 mg QD	No titration necessary. Consider lower dose in diabetic patients	120 mg/day though dose more than 60 mg/day has no additional benefit Adjust for hep/renal disease	Nausea, dry mouth, constipation, loss of appetite, fatigue, drowsiness Contraindicated in glaucoma and pts on MAOIs
Venlafaxine (Effexor)	SNRIs	37.5 mg BID Also comes in extended release	Titrate up 37.5 mg po QD every 3-4 days	225 mg/day Adjust renal failure	Hypertension, nausea, headache, somnolence, dry mouth, dizziness, insomnia
Gabapentin (Neurontin)	Anticonvulsant	100-300 mg QD	300 mg 1 st day, BID on 2 nd day and then TID	3600 mg/day Adjust in renal failure	Dizziness, somnolence, ataxia, fatigue, peripheral edema, nystagmus, N/V
Pregabalin (Lyrica)	Anticonvulsant	25 mg TID mg BID	Increase to 300 mg QD within 1 week	600 mg/day Adjust in renal failure	Dizziness, somnolence, dry mouth, edema, blurred vision, weight gain
Valproic acid (Depakote)	Anticonvulsant	250 mg TID	5-10 mg/kg/wk	1000 mg/day	Headache, N/V, somnolence, dyspepsia, thrombocytopenia
Carbamazepine (Tegretol)	Anticonvulsant	100 mg BID	Increase 200 mg/day	1200 mg/day	Dizziness, drowsiness, incoordination, N/V, blurred vision, nystagmus
Phenytoin (Dilantin)	Anticonvulsant	300-400 mg QD	Adjust every 7-10 days	625 mg/day	Nausea, vomiting, rash, ataxia, dizziness, nystagmus Rarely first line Contraindicated in hepatic failure
Lidocaine transdermal	Local anesthetic	1 patch	None	3 patches daily for max of 12 hr	Local erythema, edema, burning, discomfort; urticaria/hypersensitivity rxn
Capasaicin topical (Zostrix)	Local anesthetic	0.025% - 0.075% cream	None	Apply no more than 4 times/day	Burning, erythema, thermal hyperalgesia
Tramadol (Ultram)	Weak mu agonist Norepinephrine and serotonin inhibitor	25 – 50 mg bid	Increase by 50mg/day every 3 to 5 days	400 mg daily (300 mg daily in older adults) Dose adjust in renal failure	Contraindicated if seizure history, caution if on SSRIs Somnolence, dizziness, constipation, nausea, headache