

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 |