

MOST COMMONLY PRESCRIBED NEUROPATHIC PAIN MEDICATIONS

The information contain herein is not intended to substitute for informed medical advice. You should not use this information to diagnose or treat a health problem or disease without consulting a qualified health care provider. If you have any specific questions about any medical matter you should consult your doctor or other professional healthcare provider. The Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy does not endorse any medications, herein.

MEDICATION CLASS	STARTING DOSAGE- PRESCRIBED BY A MEDICAL DOCTOR	TITRATION PRESCRIBED BY A MEDICAL DOCTOR	MAXIMUM DOSAGE PRESCRIBED BY A MEDICAL DOCTOR	DURATION OF ADEQUATE TRIAL	SIDE EFFECTS	PRECAUTIONS	HERBAL & FOOD INTERACTIONS	OTHER BENEFITS
Amitriptyline	10 mg at bedtime				Dry mouth occurs in almost everybody when the dose is greater than 40 mg at night. Drowsiness may occur as you increase from one dose to another.	Other less common side-effects include cloudy thinking, urinary retention, irregular heartbeat, and light-headedness upon arising. If these occur, please call your doctor.	Herbal: St. John's Wort - may decrease amitriptyline concentration	Amitriptyline is FDA approved for treatment of depression. It is also useful in treatment of chronic neuropathic pain.
Nortriptyline or Desipramine	25 mg at bedtime	Increase by 25mg/d every 3-7 days as tolerated	150 mg/d; if blood level is below 100 ng/ml (mg/ml), continue titration with caution	6-8 weeks; at least 2 weeks at maximum tolerated dosage	Drowsiness may occur as you increase from one dose to another, but it usually subsides after your body gets used to the medicine over several days. This is why dosage increases should be done no quicker than every 7 days.	Cardiac disease, glaucoma, suicide risk, seizure disorder, concomitant use of Tramadol	Herbal: St. John's Wort – may increase desipramine's pharmacologic effects and risk of toxicity, specifically serotonin syndrome. Food: None Known	Nortriptyline is FDA approved for treatment of symptoms of depression. It is also a useful treatment for chronic neuropathic pain.
Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	30 mg once daily	Increase to 60 mg once daily after one week	60 mg twice daily	4 weeks	Other less common side-effects include cloudy thinking, urinary retention, irregular heartbeat, and light-headedness upon arising. If these occur, please call your doctor.	Hepatic dysfunction, renal insufficiency, alcohol abuse, concomitant use of Tramadol	Herbal: St. John's Wort - may increase adverse effects	Duloxetine (Cymbalta) is approved by the FDA for treatment of major depressive disorder; management of pain associated with diabetic neuropathy. It is useful in treating chronic neuropathic pain from other causes.
Venlafaxine (Effexor)	37.5 mg once or twice daily	Increase by 75 mg each week	225 mg daily	4-6 weeks	Amitriptyline Page	Concomitant use of Tramadol, cardiac disease, withdrawal syndrome with abrupt discontinuation	Herbal: St. John's Wort – may increase risk of serotonin syndrome. Food: None Known	Improvement of depression

Gabapentin (Neurontin)	100-300 mg at bedtime or 100-300 mg three times daily	Increase by 100-300 mg three times daily every 1-7 days as tolerated	3600 mg daily (1200 mg three times daily)	3-8 weeks + 2 weeks at maximum dosage	Sedation, dizziness, peripheral edema	Renal insufficiency		Improvement of sleep disturbance, no clinically significant drug interactions
Pregabalin (Lyrica)	50 mg three times daily or 75 mg twice daily	Increase to 300 mg daily after 3-7 days, then by 150 mg every 3-7 days as tolerated	600 mg daily (200 mg three times daily or 300 mg twice daily)	4 weeks	Sedation, dizziness, peripheral edema	Renal insufficiency	Herbal: None Known Food: Alcohol: Increases sedative effects	Pregabalin is FDA approved for management of neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia; adjunctive therapy for adult patients with partial onset seizures. Pregabalin is useful in treatment of chronic neuropathic pain.
Lidocaine patch	Maximum of three patches daily for 12 hours maximum	None needed	Maximum of three patches daily for 12- 18 hours maximum	3 weeks	Local erythema, rash	None	Herbal and Food: Not Known	No systemic side effects
Carbamazepine (Tegretol)	100 mg once or twice a day	May increase by 100 mg twice a day	600 mg taken twice a day (morning and near bedtime).		Drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting. Also common, dry mouth, ataxia, speech disorder, blurred vision	Blood counts and liver functions must be monitored by taking Carbamazepine. Initially, this will be done monthly for 3 months and then every 3 months as long as you take the medication	Herbal Interaction: Not Known Food Interaction: Grapefruit - may increase the absorption and blood concentration of carbamazepine	Carbamazepine is an FDA-approved medication for partial seizures with complex symptomatology (psychomotor, temporal lobe), generalized tonic-clonic seizures (grand mal), mixed seizure patterns, trigeminal neuralgia. It is also valuable for treatment of chronic neuropathic pain.
Ultram (Tramadol)	50 mg once or twice daily	Increase by 50-100 mg daily in divided doses every 3-7 days as tolerated	400 mg daily (100 mg four times daily); 300 mg daily in patients >75 years old		Nausea, vomiting, constipation, drowsiness, dizziness, seizures, blurred vision	History of substance abuse, suicide risk, driving impairment during treatment initiation, seizure disorder, concomitant use of SSRI, SSNRI, TCA	Herbal and Food Interaction: Not Known	Tramadol is FDA approved for the treatment of musculoskeletal pain. Studies have shown it is useful in treating the pain associated with diabetic neuropathy and other pain conditions.