



WESTERN NEUROPATHY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4740, Auburn, CA 95604 • (888) 556-3356 • info@pnhelp.org • www.pnhelp.org

DRUGS APPROVED BY THE FDA FOR TREATMENT OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN SYNDROMES (TABLE 7)

Medication	Indication	Beginning Dosages	Titration	Maximum Dosage	Duration of Adequate Trial
Gabapentin	Postherpetic neuralgia (shingles)	100-300 mg every night or 100-300 mg 3×/d	Increase by 100-300 mg 3×/d every 1-7 d as tolerated	3600 mg/d (1200 mg 3 ×/d); reduce if low creatinine clearance	3-8 wk for titration plus 1-2 wk at maximum tolerated dosage
Pregabalin	DPN	50 mg three times a day	Increase up to 100 mg three times a day	600 mg a day	Start with 50mg TID and increase up to 100mg TID over 1 week
Lamotrigine	Postherpetic neuralgia (shingles)	200-400 mg every night	Start with 25 to 50 mg every other day and increase by 25 mg every week	500 mg a day	3 to 5 wk for titration with 1 -2 wk at maximum tolerated dosage
Carbamazepine**	Trigeminal neuralgia	200 mg/d (100 mg bid)	Add up to 200 mg/d in increments of 100 mg every 12 h	1200 mg/d	
5% lidocaine patch	Postherpetic neuralgia (shingles)	Maximum of 3 patches daily for a maximum of 12 hr	None needed	Maximum of 3 patches daily for a maximum of 12 hr	2 wk
Tramadol hydrochloride	Moderate to moderately severe pain	50 mg, 1 or 2x/d	Increased by 50-100 mg/d in divided doses every 3-7 d as tolerated	400 mg/d (100 mg 4×/d); in patients older than 75 yr, 300 mg/d in divided doses	4 wk
Tricyclic antidepressants (nortriptyline or desipramine hydrochloride)	Chronic pain	10-25 mg every night	Increase by 10-25 mg/d every 3-7 d as tolerated	75-150 mg/d; if blood level of active drug and its metabolite is <100 ng/mL, continue titration with caution	6-8 wk with at least 1-2 wk at maximum tolerated dosage
Duloxetine (Serotonin/norepinephrine Reuptake inhibitor)	Diabetic neuropathic pain	30 mg bid	Increase by 60 to 60 bid. No further titration	120 mg/d	4 wk
Fluoxetine (Serotonin/norepinephrine Reuptake inhibitor)	Diabetic neuropathic pain	30 mg bid	Increase by 60 to 60 bid. No further titration	120 mg/d	4 wk
Tapentadol ER	Diabetic neuropathic pain	50 mg bid	Increase by 50 mg/bid every 3 days as tolerated	500 mg/d	(bid: twice a day) (tid: three a day)

Reference

Vinik, A, M.D. et al. (February 5, 2018). *Diabetic Neuropathies*. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK279175/>