

TAPM Audio Series 2006
Module 2: Neuropathic Pain and Adjuvant Therapy
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Module Objectives

1. Discuss the types of neuropathic pain
2. Discuss medications from several drug classes used to treat neuropathic pain
3. Identify common side effects and/or precautions in using these medications

Post-test

Each question has one correct answer. Please record your answers on the separate answer/evaluation sheet and submit to TAPM if credit is desired.

1. All of the following are examples of neuropathic pain, EXCEPT:
 - a. Post-amputation phantom pain
 - b. Reflex sympathetic dystrophy (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome)
 - c. Visceral pain of appendicitis
 - d. Diabetic peripheral neuropathy
2. Which of the following have the added benefit of relieving anxiety, as well as being useful for its primary indication and adjuvant effects:
 - a. Clonazepam
 - b. Valproic Acid
 - c. Tizanidine
 - d. Baclofen

For the following questions, choose the listed medication that the presentation recommends trying first for that patient's neuropathic pain management, assuming no contraindications:

3. A patient with lung cancer is admitted to hospice. His chief symptom complaint is his diabetic peripheral neuropathy, described as a continuous, hard-to-describe, hot sensation.
 - a. Clonidine
 - b. Nortriptyline
 - c. Pregabalin
 - d. Mexilitine
4. A hospice patient has an infiltrating head and neck cancer causing paroxysmal pain shooting from the posterior neck, forward onto the face. The pain is debilitating when it occurs, but never lasts long enough in any given episode to take her "prn pain pill."
 - a. Ketamine
 - b. Flecainide
 - c. Duloxetine
 - d. Gabapentin
5. The cardiologist asks your advice for managing the pain in an elderly patient with end-stage emphysema, ischemic cardiomyopathy with heart failure and arrhythmias, hypertensive & diabetic nephropathy with severe renal failure, and severe diabetic polyneuropathy. The patient is on morphine 30mg daily in divided doses, which is the highest dose he can tolerate without adverse effects, and is taking carbamazepine with partial relief of his pain. Which of the following agents is safest to try *adding* for additional analgesic effect?
 - a. Amitriptyline 25mg po q hs
 - b. Transdermal clonidine patch changed weekly
 - c. Duloxetine 30mg po q 12h
 - d. Flecainide 50mg po q 12h
 - e. Methadone 10mg po q 12h