

## Pain (nerve type): medication options

Use this decision aid to help you and your healthcare professional decide which tablets you may want to consider for the management of all nerve type pain, such as stabbing, shooting, or burning pain, except for patients with diabetic neuropathy or trigeminal neuralgia. This medication information applies to the United Kingdom only.

**\*Consider carbamazepine for trigeminal neuralgia and duloxetine for diabetic neuropathy.**

Frequently Asked Questions	Amitriptyline	Gabapentin	Pregabalin	Capsaicin cream
<b>When are they used?</b>	For nerve type pain	For nerve type pain	For nerve type pain	Cream used for nerve type pain if tablets not useful
<b>How do they work?</b>	Reduces sensitivity of nerves	Reduces sensitivity of nerves	Reduces sensitivity of nerves	Reduces sensitivity of Nerves in the skin
<b>How effective are they?</b>	For every 3-4 people whom take the drug, 1 person gets 50% pain relief	For every 7 people whom take the drug, 1 person gets 50% pain relief	For every 8 people whom take the drug, 1 person gets 50% pain relief	May provide benefit for people who cannot tolerate tablets
<b>What are the most common side effects?</b>	Some people experience dizziness, dry mouth and weight gain. This may lessen with time.	Some people experience nausea and dizziness. This may lessen with time. Increased risk if taken with alcohol, opioids and antidepressants.	Some people experience constipation and dizziness. This may lessen with time. Increased risk if taken with alcohol, opioids and antidepressants.	Some people experience a burning sensation of the skin in the first few applications of the cream.
<b>Are they safe for me to take?</b>	Caution if you have heart problems or are on certain antidepressants.	Caution if you are depressed as gabapentin may lower your mood further. Take lower doses if you have kidney problems.	Caution if you are depressed as pregabalin may lower your mood further. Take lower doses if you have kidney problems.	Avoid applying to open skin. Use gloves and/or wash hands after use.
<b>What dose should I take?</b>	Start with 10 mg at night. Increase by 10 mg per Week, if required, to a tolerated effective dose <b>Max:</b> 50-80 mg	<b>Week 1:</b> 100 mg once a day <b>Week 2:</b> 100 mg twice a day <b>Week 3:</b> 100 mg three times a day <b>Max:</b> 900mg three times a day	Start with 25 mg twice a day If required increase further after discussing with GP <b>Max:</b> 300mg twice a day	0.075% three to four times a day Or 0.025% if the high dose is not tolerated  Apply sparingly, approximately pea size depending on size of area