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## Pharmacotherapy of Pain: Adjuvant Analgesics

Dr Semionov Valentina  
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Department of Family Medicine,  
Clalit Health Services-South District  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

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### הגדשה של תרופה נלוות (Adjuvant)

- תרופה משלימה לשככת כאב
  - תרופה שההתוויה שלה אינה לשכוך כאב אבל ידוע שיש לה במצבים מסוימים השפעה אנalgistica
- תרופות משלימות נגד תופעות לוואי של משככי כאב

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Multipurpose Adjuvant Analgesics	
Class	Examples
Antidepressants	amitriptyline, desipramine, nortriptyline, paroxetine, venlafaxine, citalopram,
Alpha-2 adrenergic agonists	clonidine
Corticosteroids	prednisone, dexamethasone

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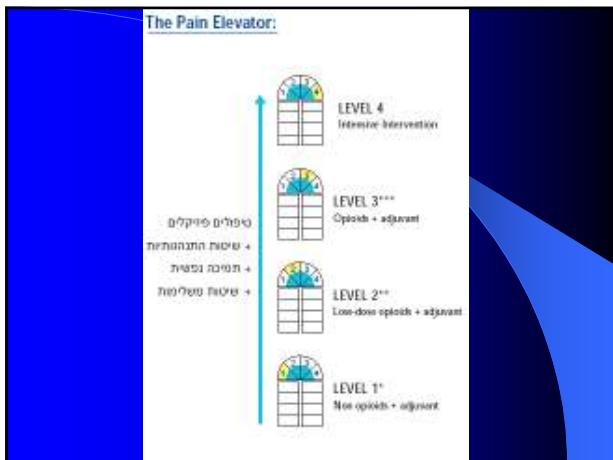
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## כמה עובדות על כאב נוירופטי...

**כאב נוירופטי** – הוא סוג של כאב כרוני הנגרם מפגיעה במערכות העצבים כתוכאה ממחללה, ניתוח, דלקת, מחלת נוירולוגיות, טיפול מחלת הסוכרת, HZ ועוד.

הפגיעה יכולה להיות במערכות העצבים המרכזית (המוח ועמוד השדרה) או במערכות העצבים הילקפית (עצבים שמהווים למוח ולעמוד השדרה).

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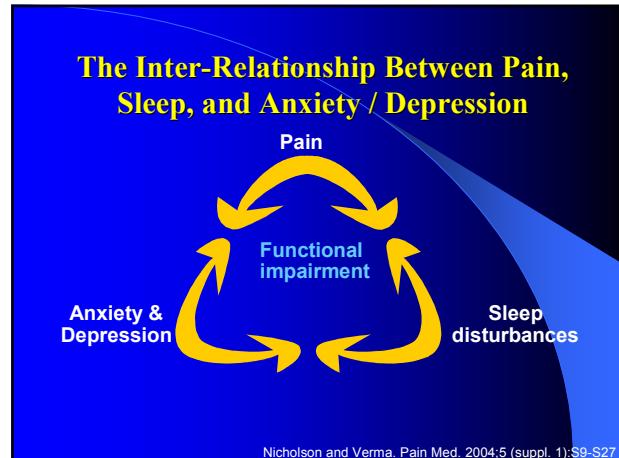
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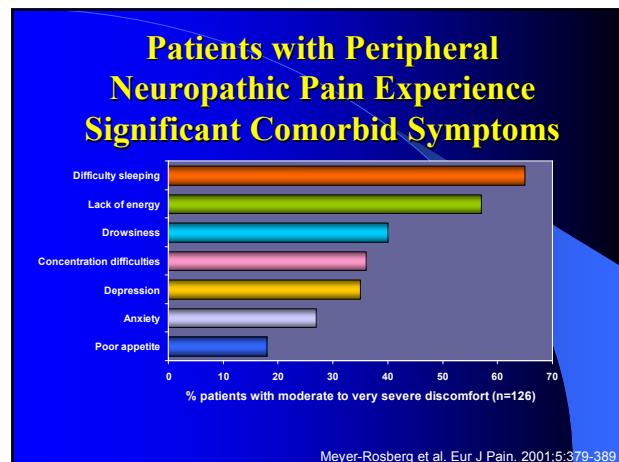
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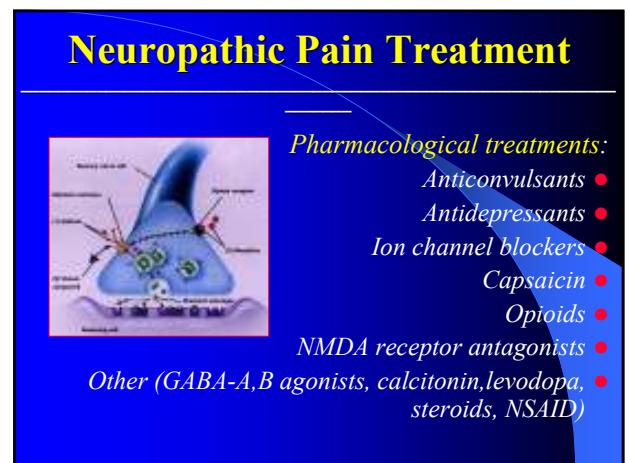
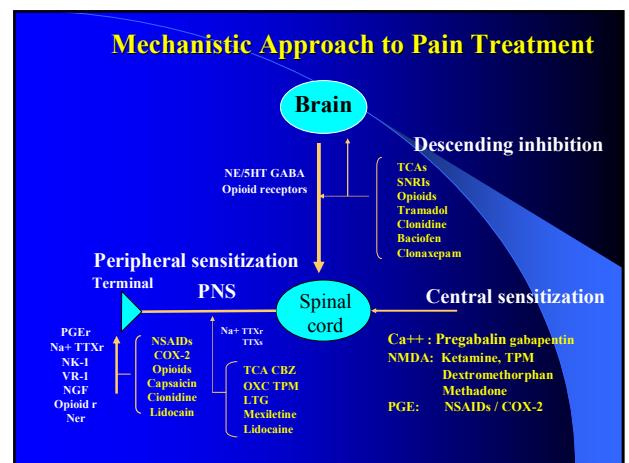


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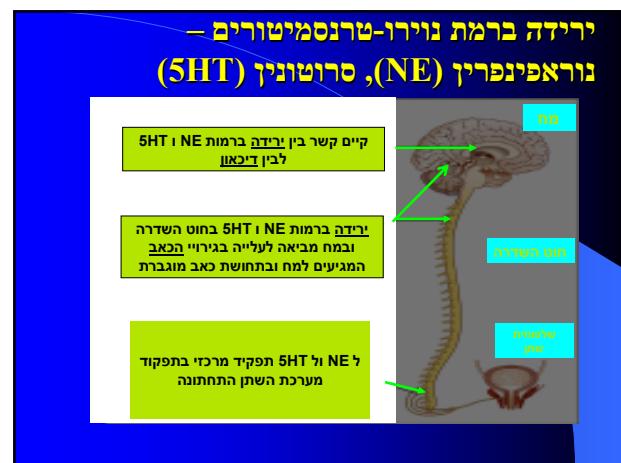
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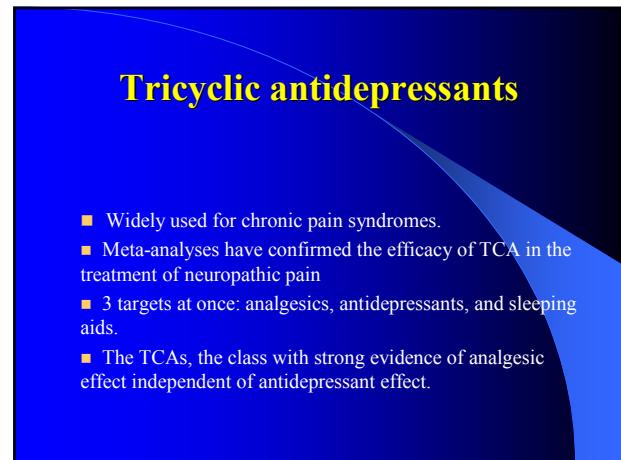
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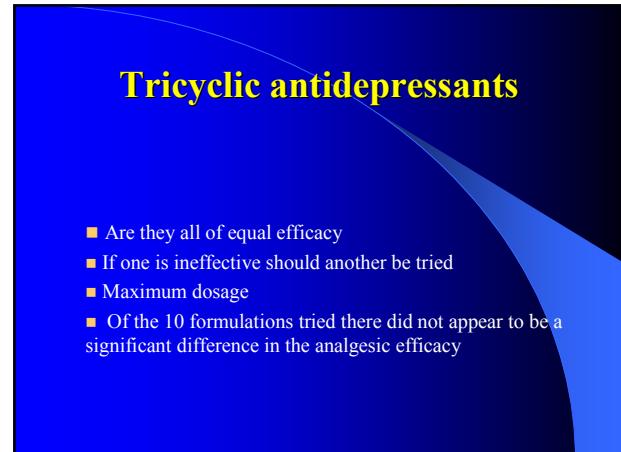
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## TCAs: Mechanisms

- Relief of pain through serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake blockade<sup>1</sup>
- Blockade of  $\alpha$ -adrenergic receptors<sup>2</sup>
- Sodium and potassium channel modulation
- Modulation of monoamine neurotransmitters
- ? NMDA-receptor antagonism

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## TCAs

- Amitriptyline studied most extensively
  - Limitations due to anticholinergic AEs
    - Constipation and pseudodementia
  - Potential cardiac conduction abnormalities
- Nortriptyline and desipramine
  - Better AE profiles
  - High doses cause anticholinergic AEs
    - Affect cardiac conduction
  - Desipramine an alternative to amitriptyline intolerance<sup>2</sup>

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## TCAs: AEs

Commonly reported AEs  
(generally anticholinergic)

- Blurred vision
- Cognitive changes
- Constipation
- Dry mouth
- Orthostatic hypotension
- Sedation
- Sexual dysfunction
- Tachycardia
- Urinary retention

• Fewest  
AEs

- Desipramine
- Nortriptyline
- Imipramine
- Doxepin
- Amitriptyline

Most  
AEs

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## Amitriptyline, Nortriptyline

- One of the true analgesic antidepressants.
- Relieves pain in undepressed patients independent of mood alteration.
- Best effects in patients with burning pain, paresthesias, painful numbness, or hyperalgesia.
- No advantage to increasing over 100 mg. daily
- Anticholinergic side effects, postural hypotension, sedation, delirium, constipation, weight gain, cardiac arrhythmias.

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## SSRI

- Their efficacy is lower than of TCA
- **Paroxetine** reduces the pain of diabetic neuropathy better than placebo
- **Citalopram** have an efficacy equal that of paroxetine
- **Fluoxetine** showed not benefit in diabetic neuropathy

Jerry R. Mendell, Z.Sahenk, NEJM, 2003

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## Serotonin and Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors

### Venlafaxine and duloxetine

- Inhibit norepinephrine and serotonin reuptake and increase synaptic availability
- Preliminary results suggest safety, tolerability, and effectiveness in patients with painful DPN
- Minimal anticholinergic AEs

## **Atypical Antidepressants**

- **Bupropion** ( specific inhibitor of neuronal norepinephrine reuptake ) diminished neuropathic pain by about 30 percent ( small study-41 subject) from multiple causes
- **Venlafaxine=Effexor** ( SSRI+ NERI) had benefit in patient with painful sensory neuropathy-diabetic or postherpetic
- **Duloxetine =Cymbalta** (SSRI+NERI) for fibromialgia and neuropathy or postherpetic neuralgia

## **Venlafaxine**

- SNRI
- Serotonin/weak norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor
  - Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 3-way crossover study (N=40)
    - Venlafaxine (225 mg/d) vs imipramine (150 mg/d)
    - As effective as imipramine
    - Pain scores lower than placebo

Sindrup et al. *Neurology*. 2003;60:1284-1289.

## **Comparative Efficacies of Antidepressants and Antiepileptic drugs**

<u>Drugs</u>	<u>NNT</u>
TCA	2.6
SSRI	6.7
Phenytoin,Carbamazepine	2.5
Gabapentin	4.1

Sindrup SH et al. Meta-analysis  
*Neurol* 2000

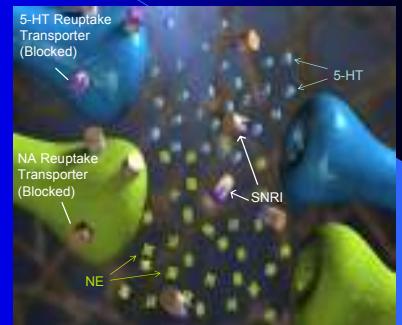
## Duloxetine

- Balanced selective norepinephrine and serotonin reuptake inhibitor<sup>1,2</sup>
- Lacks significant affinity for anticholinergic, antihistamine,  $\alpha_1$ -adrenergic, dopamine, and opioid receptors
- Relieves symptoms of major depressive disorder<sup>1,2</sup>
- Results suggest 60 mg qd safe and effective in patients with painful DPN<sup>3,4,5</sup>

1. Detke et al. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2002;63:308-315; 2. Detke et al. *J Psychiatr Res.* 2002; 36:383-390; 3. Wernicke et al. Poster presented at: 56th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology; April 24-May 1, 2004; San Francisco, Calif; 4. Raskin et al. Poster presented at: 23rd Annual Meeting of the American Pain Society; May 6-9, 2004; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; 5. Wernicke et al. Poster presented at: 23rd Annual Meeting of the American Pain Society; May 6-9, 2004; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

## מארזן ברמת הסינפסה SNRI – Cymbalta

**Cymbalta**♦  
פועלת על מגנון  
יעיכוב הקלייטה  
חדש של סרotonin  
ונוראפרניפרין.  
**באפיוית גבורה**  
וב敖ון מואץ וכך  
מעלה את רמתם  
במערכת העצבים  
המרכזיים



## Cymbalta

עליה ברמות NE + SHT

דיאן – סימפטומים  
רגשיים

כאב - השפעה על סימפטומים  
גוףנים כאבים של דיאן  
כאב על רקע פגעה עצبية  
סוכרטית

טיפול שליטה על מתן שמן

## – סיכום בטיחות – Cymbalta

- הוכחה כבטיחה בכל המקרים הקליניים (כאב נוירופטי סורתי ו-דיכאון).
- תופעות הלואין העיקריות שנצפו היו בחילה, נמנום, שחרורת.
- רב תופעות הלואין היו בדרגת חומרה קלה עד בינונית, נצפו בדרך כלל בתחלת הטיפול, וולפו עם המשך הטיפול.
- אינה גורמת לשינויים בלחץ הדם והשימוש בה בטוח גם בחולים הסובלים מיל.ג.
- QTc אינה גורמת לשינוי בQTc.

### Strength of Recommendations

Key clinical recommendation	Label	References
Tricyclic antidepressants may be used for treatment of chronic neuropathic and non-neuropathic pain syndromes.	A	5, 8, 11, 21
Tricyclic antidepressants are more effective than SNSIs in the treatment of neuropathic pain syndromes. An estimated 2.8 patients must be treated with tricyclic antidepressants and 8.7 patients with SNSIs to have one patient with more than 50 percent pain relief.	B	6, 14
Serotonergic antidepressants and currently approved antiepileptic drugs have little documented efficacy and therefore should not be used as first-line medications in the treatment of non-neuropathic pain.	B	3, 8, 18-22

SNSI = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

A = consistent, good-quality patient-oriented evidence; B = inconsistent or limited-quality patient-oriented evidence; C = consensus, disease-oriented evidence, usual practice, opinions, or case series. See page 409 for more information.

TABLE 2  
Suggested Mechanisms of Action for Antidepressants and Antiepileptic Drugs Used to Treat Chronic Pain

Mechanism of action	Drugs
Inhibition of norepinephrine reuptake	Tricyclic antidepressants (secondary amines): desipramine (Norpramin), nortriptyline (Pamelor)
Inhibition of norepinephrine and serotonin reuptake	Tricyclic antidepressants (tertiary amines): amitriptyline (Elavil), imipramine (Tofranil)
Nonantidepressants: venlafaxine (Effexor), duloxetine (Cymbalta)	
Cybernetics (Rimonil)	
Blockade of sodium channel	Antiepileptic drug: carbamazepine (Carbatrol), phenytoin (Dilantin), lamotrigine (Lamictal)
Blockade of calcium channel	Antiepileptic drug: gabapentin, pregabalin (Lyrica)
Inhibition of $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid	Antiepileptic drug: valproate
	Sedative drug: baclofen (Lioresal)

\*Investigational drug (approval/pending from U.S. Food and Drug Administration). Adapted with permission from Atkinson, *The evolving role of antiepileptic drugs in treating neuropathic pain*. *Neurology* 2002;59(suppl 1):S2-S7.

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## Why Anticonvulsants for pain?

- Anticonvulsants for epilepsy
- Similarities to neuropathic pain
- Specific Pharmacological mechanisms
- Less tolerance
- Less side effect
- High safety profile

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## Anticonvulsant mechanisms

- Voltage gated Ion Channel blocker
  - Na Channel blocker
  - Ca Channel blocker
- NMDA Antagonism
- GABA inhibitory effect Agonism

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## Antiepileptic Drugs

### The First Generation of AED

- Carbamazepine
- Valproic Acid
- Phenytoin

### The Second Generation of AED

- Gabapentine
- Lamotrigine
- Topiramate
- Pregabalin

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## Na-Channel blocking anticonvulsants

- Carbamazepine
- Phenitoin
- Lamotrigine
- Topiramate

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## Anticonvulsants that do not block Na-Channels

- Valproic acid
- Pregabalin
- Gabapentin

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## Antiepileptic Drugs

- Is there a drug of choice
- If one is ineffective should we try another
- What is the maximal dosage.
- The initially dose should be a low one, at bedtime, increased slowly up to the therapeutic level over 4-8 weeks.

## Carbamazepine

- First drug for Trigeminal Neuralgia
- Side effect: Sedation, ataxia, Gastric irritability, dystonia, chorea, depression, psychosis, convulsions, congestive heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias, rash.
- Hematological and hepatic dysfunction
  - Anemia, agranulocytosis, leukopenia, Thrombocytopenia, hepatocellular jaundice
  - Aplastic Anemia
- Multiple drug interaction

## Carbamazepine

- |                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| ■ Trigeminal neuralgia | 3 RCT |
| ■ Diabetic neuropathy  | 3 RCT |
| ■ Migraine prophylaxis | 3 RCT |

## Carbamazepine: Dosage and side effects

- No need for drug blood levels
- Starting dose is 200mg bid
- Maximal dosage up to 1,200 mg./day
- CNS side effects; nausea, visual disturbances, ataxia
- Reversible leukopenia and thrombocytopenia
- Allergy

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## Phenytoin

- The first drug to be used as antineuropathic
- Side effect: Nystagmus, disarthria, ataxia, sedation, dysphoria, confusion, coma,
- Rare: Agranulocytosis, thrombocytopenia, aplastic anemia and more
- Multiple drug interaction

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## Lamotrigine

- Neural membrane stabilizing agent
  - Voltage sensitive Na Channel blocker
- Glutamate release inhibitor
  - NMDA antagonist
- Low side effects profile
- High safety profile

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## Topiramate

- Na Channels blocker
- GABA A,B enhacer
- Kainate antagonism of the subtype of the glutamate receptor
- Higher sedation rate and psichomotor slowing
- Carbonic anhydrase inhibition
- Renal stone
- Weight loss
- No significant drug interaction, or hematologic

## Valproic acid

- Increase GABAergic neurotransmission
- Increase GABA in the brain
- Severe side effect
  - Hepatic necrosis, pancreatitis, Thrombocytopenia, stupor and coma

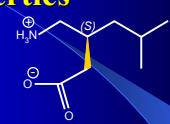
## Gabapentin

Best documented efficacy in the treatment of neuropathic pain!!!

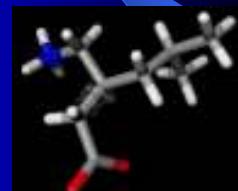
- Painful diabetic neuropathy
- Postherpetic neuralgia
- Not interact with other drugs
- The usual starting dose is 100 to 300 mg bid
- Max dosing from 1200 mg/d to 3600 mg/d
- Side effects: drowsiness, somnolence, nausea, fatigue

## Pregabalin: Physicochemical Properties

Pregabalin  
S-(+)-3-isobutylGABA



- Amino acid
- Readily crosses blood-brain barrier
- Inactive at GABA receptors
- Pharmacology requires aliphatic substitution
  - (right-side chain)



Data on file, Pfizer Inc.  
Silverman et al. J Med Chem. 1991;34:2295-2299.

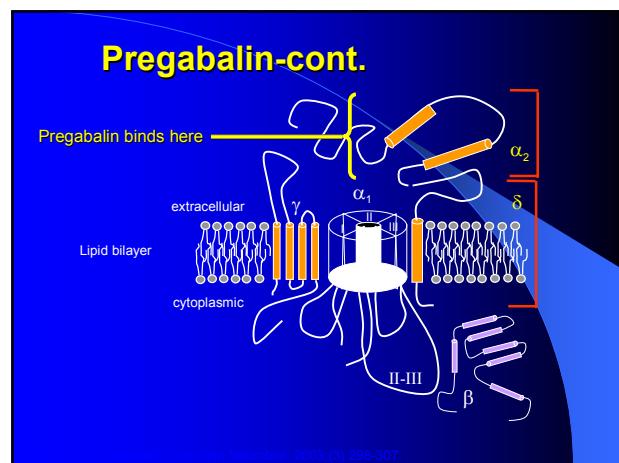
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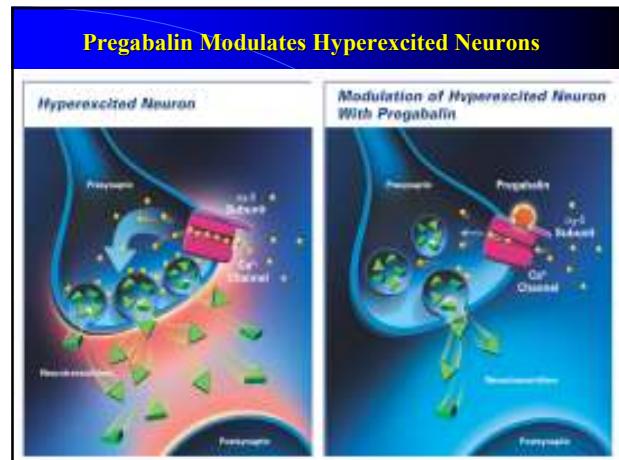

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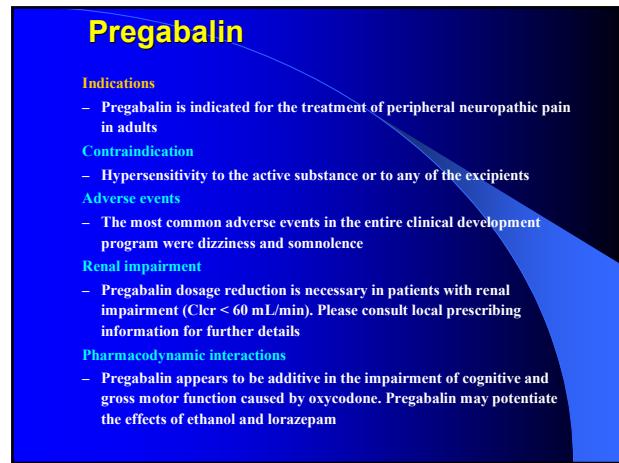

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## What Pregabalin Does...

- Pregabalin binds to the  $\alpha_2$ - $\delta$  subunit of voltage-gated calcium channels
- Pregabalin reduces calcium influx at presynaptic terminals in hyperexcited neurons
- Subsequent to  $\alpha_2$ - $\delta$  binding, pregabalin reduces release of excitatory neurotransmitters
  - ➡ e.g. glutamate, substance P, norepinephrine
- Analgesic, anxiolytic, anticonvulsant activities

Gee et al. 1996; Fink et al. 2002; Fehrenbacher et al. 2003; Dooley et al. 2002, Maneuf et al. 2001, Bialer et al. 1999, Welty et al. 1997

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## What Pregabalin Does Not Do...

### • Pregabalin:

- *Not active at GABA<sub>A</sub> or GABA<sub>B</sub> receptors*
- *Not metabolically converted to GABA*
- *Not a GABA agonist or antagonist*
- *Not able to alter GABA uptake or degradation*
- *Not able to alter brain GABA concentration*
- *Does not block Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels or alter cardiovascular function*
- *Does not bind to 38 other receptor sites or alter function at sites of other analgesic, anxiolytic or antiepileptic drugs*

Taylor CP 1995; Vartanian et al. 2003; Bialer et al. 1999  
Data on file, Pfizer Inc, New York, NY, USA

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## Anticonvulsants in Neuropathic Pain: Conclusions

- *Anticonvulsants are effective in a variety of peripheral & central forms of neuropathic pain*
- *An average pain reduction of 35%- 45% can be expected*
- *NNT range of 2.1-3.2; roughly equivalent to TCA's*
- *Given their efficacy & superior safety profile, the new anticonvulsants should become available for the treatment of neuropathic pain in Israel*

## Steroids

- Beneficial by direct blocking nociceptive input (block C-fiber transmission) and by anti-inflammatory action.
- Important for pain due to increased intracranial pressure, spinal cord compression and cluster headache
- Beneficial in cancer neuropathic involvement
- Rarely use doses over 20 mg. dexamethazone per day. For spinal cord compression need for high doses.
- Potentially serious effects in prolonged use

## Muscle relaxants: Baclofen

- Used as adjuvant for patients with chronic musculoskeletal pain in presence of muscular spasm mainly due to spinal cord injury.
- A specific GABA-receptor (type B) agonist
- Approved for treatment of spasticity in multiple sclerosis or spinal cord injury, neuropathic pain, trigeminal neuralgia, atypical facial pain, LBP.
- Side effects: sedation, nausea, vomiting

## Local anaesthetic-like drugs

- Mexiletene
- Lignocain IV and intranasal
- Oral tocainide
- 17 RCT's

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## Lidocaine

- local anesthetic drug
- membrane-stabilizing agent that work by blocking voltage-gated Na channels
- IV lidocaine produced moderate reductions in pain in patients with diabetic neuropathy
- Best effective dose 5mg/kg. Over 30 min.
- Topical –5% lidocaine have been by the FDA for postherpetic neuralgia

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## Mexiletene

- Peripheral nerve injury
- Diabetic neuropathy dysesthesia
- Central pain due to spinal cord injury no effect.

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## NMDA-receptor antagonists

- N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor involved in neuropathic pain
- Commercially-available drugs are analgesic: ketamine, dextromethorphan, amantadine

## Ketamine

- NMDA antagonist
- For severe neuropathic pain in patients with advanced cancer
- 0.1-0.15 mg./kg as bolus or as continuous s.c infusion per hour. Raise the dose gradually.
- Principal side effects are hallucinations

## $\alpha$ -2 Agonists

- multifactorial mechanisms the analgesia produced via  $\alpha$ -2-adrenergic receptors
- Clonidine can be beneficial in chronic headache, neuropathic pains including cancer related
- Oral, transdermal route and epidural administration can have favourable effects

## Adjuvant Analgesics for Chronic Headache

- Beta blockers
- Anticonvulsants
- Calcium channel blockers
- Alpha-2 adrenergic agonists
- Antidepressants
- Vasoactive drugs
- ACE inhibitors

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## Adjuvant for the treatment of bone related pain

- NSAID's
- Bisphosphonates
- Calcitonin
- Radio-isotopes

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## Bisphosphonates

- Fosalan Alendronate
- Bonefos Clodronate
- Aredia Pamidronate
- Zomera Zoledronate

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## Administration and side effects of Bisphosphonates

- The oral preparations must be taken on an empty stomach.
- Aredia (pamidronate) and Zomera (Zolendronate) are given IV
- Hypocalcemia
- GI side effects

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## הציגת מקרה מס' 1

בן 67, ברקעILI"ד וסוכרטה. שוחרר מאישפוח במו' עורלפני חודש וחץ עם אבחנה של **הרופא זוסטר**.

פריחה החלפה לחולותין, אך ממשיך להחלה על חברו שורף באזורי הירך הלטורי הימני, עד הברך, נימולים ברגל וגם כבאים כמו זרם השםeli. לא ישן לילות בכלל הכאבאים. טיפול ב NSAID, אלגוליין ללא הטבה. טיפול בטרמಡקס גרם לבחילה וסחרחות בלבתי נסבלים. הופנה למרפאת CAB.

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## הציגת מקרה מס' 2

בת 3+, ג. 52. לפניו כ-3 חודשים נכנסת לטיפולי הוסף של אבחנה סרטן לבלב גורותי, תחוליה מפשעת בבטן ואגן. ממשיכה לקבל כימiotרפייה GEMZAR רקע- סוכרת מטופלת באינסולין, הפטיטיס B, הפרעות חרדה ודיכאון.

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## הציגת מקרה

סבלת תקופה ארוכה מכabi בטן. אך התازנה היטב עם טיפול במדבקות דורוגזי 100 מ"ג לשעה פעם ב-3 ימים. במשך שבועיים האחרונים התלוננה על החמרה בכabi בטן ווגם הופיע כאב חדש בשתי הרגליים-כאבים שרופפים והרגשת נימולים בשתי כפות הרגליים. טיפול: באופן הדרגתי הוללה מנין של דורוגזי עד 400 מ"ג שהקל על כאבי בטן אך לא שינוי הרגשת שריפה ונימולים ברגליים.

מה הצד הבא ?

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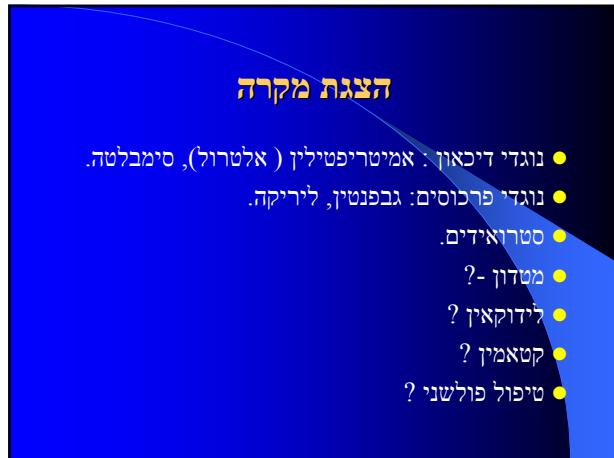
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