

Appendix 4A: Characteristics of randomized, placebo-controlled trials involving patients with neuropathic pain that were included in the meta-analysis

Study report	Study population, n (withdrawals)	Intervention and dosage	End points and outcomes
Harati 1998, USA Parallel Quality: 5	Diabetic neuropathy 131 (49)	Tramadol 50-400 mg/d for 6 wk	Primary: pain intensity* (5-point Likert scale) Secondary: pain relief, quality of life (Medical Outcomes Study) – physical functioning,* social functioning, current health perception, psychological distress, overall role functioning, and the 2 overall sleep problem indexes and sleep subscales Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8
Sindrup 1999, Germany Crossover design Quality: 5	Polyneuropathy 45 (11)	Tramadol 200-400 mg/d for 4 wk	Primary: pain ratings* (0-10 NRS), paresthesia and touch-evoked pain. Secondary: dynamic allodynia, rescue medication, patient's preference Results: see Appendix 5
Boureau 2003, France Parallel Quality: 5	Postherpetic neuralgia 127 (19)	Tramadol 100-400 mg/d for 6 wk	Primary: pain intensity (100-mm VAS* and 5-point NRS) Secondary: Global improvement, quality of life (Nottingham scale) and rescue medication (paracetamol) Results: see Appendix 5
Watson and Babul 1998, Canada Crossover design Quality: 3	Postherpetic neuralgia 50 (12 lost to follow-up)	CR oxycodone 20-60 (mean 45) mg/d for 4 wk	Primary: pain intensity (100-mm VAS* and 5-point categorical scale) Secondary: pain relief, steady pain, brief pain, skin pain, disability* (a categorical scale: 0 = no disability, 3 = severe disability), BDI, POMS Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8
Watson 2003, Canada Crossover design Quality: 4	Diabetic neuropathy 45 (3)	CR oxycodone 20-80 (mean 40) mg/d for 4 wk	Primary: pain intensity (100-mm VAS* and 5-point categorical scale) Secondary: pain relief, steady pain, brief pain, skin pain, PDI,* SF-36, pain and sleep questionnaires Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8
Gimbel 2003, USA Parallel Quality: 5	Diabetic neuropathy 159 (44)	CR oxycodone 20-120 (mean 37) mg/d for 6 wk	Primary: pain intensity* (0-10 numeric scale) Secondary: current and worse pain, satisfaction, BPI (physical function score),* SF-36 Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8
Huse 2001, Germany Crossover Quality: 4	Phantom limb pain 12 (3)	Oral retarded morphine 70-300 (mean 120) mg/d for 4 wk	Primary: pain intensity* (2-cm VAS) Secondary: PES, SDS, PRSS, WHYMPI, BSS Results: see Appendix 5
Harke 2001, Germany Parallel Quality: 4	Peripheral neuropathy 38 (3)	SR morphine 90 mg/d for 1 wk	Pain intensity* (0-10 numeric analogue scale) Results: see Appendix 5
Raja 2002, USA Crossover Quality: 4	Postherpetic neuralgia 76 (32)	CR morphine 15-240 (mean 91) mg/d or methadone 15 mg/d for 6 wk	Primary: pain intensity* (0-10 NRS) Secondary: pain relief, cognitive function, MPI* (physical functioning subscale), sleep, mood, global preference Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8

Note: Studies are ordered according to the opioids investigated, from weaker to stronger. NRS = numeric rating scale, CR = controlled-release, VAS = visual analog scale, BDI = Beck Depression Inventory, POMS = Profile of Mood State, PDI = Pain Disability Index, SF-36 = Short Form 36 Health Survey, BPI = Brief Pain Inventory, PES = Pain Experience Scale, SDS = Self-Rating Depression Scale, PRSS = Pain-Related Self-statement Scale, WHYMPI = West Haven-Yale Multidimensional Pain Inventory, BSS = Brief Stress Scale, SR = sustained release, MPI = Multidimensional Pain Inventory.

*Data used in the meta-analysis.

References

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