

P.E.A.R.L.S. Practical Evidence About Real Life Situations



Lamotrigine unlikely to benefit chronic pain or neuropathic pain.

Clinical Question	How effective is lamotrigine in patients with chronic pain conditions or neuropathic pain?
Bottom Line	Given the availability of more effective treatments, including anticonvulsants and antidepressants, lamotrigine does not have a significant place in therapy at present.
Context	Anticonvulsants, particularly carbamazepine and sodium valproate, have a place in the treatment of chronic pain conditions and neuropathic pain.
Caveat	Lamotrigine can cause serious skin reactions in some patients (7%)
Reference	Wiffen PJ et al. Lamotrigine for acute and chronic pain. Cochrane Review 2007. Issue 1. This review is based on 7 trials and 502 participants.
Date (Author)	May 2007 (Brian R McAvoy)

NNT = numbers needed to treat to benefit one person

NNH = numbers needed to harm to benefit one person

Both NNT and NNH are only reported if the studies or pooling of studies is statistically significant

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