

What to know about Prescription Preventives for Migraine

Preventive medications can help patients with frequent migraine reduce their number of attacks and the severity of their symptoms. These treatments range from antidepressants to OnabotulinumtoxinA injections. Most recently, the FDA approved the anti-CGRP monoclonal antibodies, a new class of treatments designed specifically for migraine.

When deciding on a preventive medication, it's important to listen to the patient and consider their current lifestyle and medical factors. Use the chart below to help decide which preventive treatment might be right for your patient.

Overview of Prescription Preventives

Medication class	Most common side effects	Contraindications	Consider for
Antiepileptics Topiramate	Paresthesia, weight loss, memory impairment, somnolence, GI upset	Renal impairment, nephrolithiasis, metabolic acidosis	Patients who are overweight
Divalproex sodium/ sodium valproate	Weight gain, nausea, alopecia, somnolence, tremor	Liver impairment, pancreatitis, childbearing potential	
Antidepressants TCAs Amitriptyline Nortriptyline SNRIs Venlafaxine	Hypersomnolence, dry mouth, weight gain, constipation, fatigue, sleepiness Nausea, dizziness, insomnia, drowsiness, diaphoresis, dry mouth	Arrhythmia (tachycardia), cardiac conduction abnormalities, suicidal behavior/thinking Suicidal behavior/thinking, renal or hepatic impairment, poorly controlled HTN	Patients with comorbid depression, or insomnia Patients with comorbid depression, anxiety, postmenopausal hot flashes
Antihypertensives Beta blockers Propranolol Metoprolol Timolol Candesartan	Orthostatic intolerance, exercise intolerance, fatigue Hypotension, dizziness	Bradycardia, asthma, hypotension, heart failure Hyperkalemia	Patients with hypertension, essential tremor Patients with hypertension
OnabotulinumtoxinA	Injection site pain, muscle weakness	Neuromuscular/ neuromuscular junction disease	Patient who have chronic migraine
CGRP Antibodies Erenumab Galcanezumab Fremanezumab Eptinezumab	Constipation, injection site reaction, hypertension Injection site reaction Injection site reaction Injection site reaction	pregnancy, lactation, cardiovascular disease or poorly controlled risk factors	Patients who have difficulty with adherence to daily oral medication use