

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	Hypersomnolence, dry mouth, weight gain, constipation, fatigue, sleepiness	Arrhythmia (tachycardia), cardiac conduction abnormalities, suicidal behavior/thinking	Patients with comorbid depression, or insomnia
	SNRIs - Venlafaxine	Nausea, dizziness, insomnia, drowsiness, diaphoresis, dry mouth	Suicidal behavior/thinking, renal or hepatic impairment, poorly controlled HTN	Patients with comorbid depression, anxiety, postmenopausal hot flashes
Antihypertensives	Beta blockers - Propranolol - Metoprolol - Timolol	Orthostatic intolerance, exercise intolerance, fatigue	Bradycardia, asthma, hypotension, heart failure	Patients with hypertension, essential tremor
	Candesartan	Hypotension, dizziness	Hyperkalemia	Patients with hypertension
OnabotulinumtoxinA		Injection site pain, muscle weakness	Neuromuscular/ neuromuscular junction disease	Patient who have chronic migraine
CGRP Antibodies	Erenumab	Constipation, injection site reaction, hypertension	pregnancy, lactation, cardiovascular disease or poorly controlled risk factors	Patients who have difficulty with adherence to daily oral medication use
	Galcanezumab Fremanezumab Eptinezumab	Injection site reaction		