

Anesthetic Medications

Anesthetics are medications that cause a loss of sensation or consciousness to manage pain during medical procedures. They are divided into general anesthetics (inhalation: sevoflurane, desflurane; intravenous: propofol, thiopental) and local anesthetics (lidocaine, prilocaine, Dynexan).

Main Types of Anesthetics:

- **General Anesthetics (Inhalation and IV):** Used for surgery, they cause a loss of consciousness. Examples: Propofol (Diprivan), Sevoflurane (Sevorane), Ketamine, Etomidate.
- **Local Anesthetics:** Block pain in a specific area. Examples: Lidocaine (Xylocaine), EMLA (patch/cream).
- **Common uses:** Creams for mouth ulcers (Eludril mouthwash), patches for nerve pain, or gels for hemorrhoids (Titanoreine).

Key points:

- **Side effects:** Local redness or itching, nausea/vomiting.
- **Administration:** Only by healthcare professionals for systemic forms.
- **Caution:** Propofol may present cardiovascular risks when used in combination.

Antidepressant medications

Antidepressants are psychotropic medications prescribed to treat depression and anxiety disorders by regulating neurotransmitters (serotonin, norepinephrine). The main classes include SSRIs (Prozac, Seroplex), SNRIs (Effexor), and tricyclics (Anafranil). Prescriptions are individualized by a doctor.

Here is a list of common antidepressant medications, grouped by class:

1. SSRIs (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors) - First-line treatment
 - Fluoxetine (Prozac)
 - Escitalopram (Seroplex)
 - Citalopram (Seropram)
 - Paroxetine (Deroxat)
 - Sertraline (Zoloft)
 - Fluvoxamine (Floxyfral)
2. SNRIs (Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors)
 - Venlafaxine (Effexor)
 - Duloxetine (Cymbalta)
 - Milnacipran (Ixel)
3. Tricyclic Antidepressants (Imipramine) - Older generation
 - Amitriptyline (Laroxyl, Elavil)
 - Clomipramine (Anafranil)
 - Nortriptyline (Aventyl)
4. Other Antidepressants (Atypical / Other Mechanisms)
 - Mirtazapine (Norset)
 - Mianserin (Athymil)
 - Tianeptine (Stablon)
 - Agomelatine (Valdoxan)
 - Bupropion (Wellbutrin)
 - Vortioxetine (Brintellix)

Key Points to Remember:

- **Efficacy:** They act on mood regulation.
- **Time to Onset of Action:** The therapeutic effect often takes several weeks.
- **Side Effects:** May include drowsiness, weight gain, dry mouth, or sexual dysfunction.

- **Withdrawal:** Discontinuation must be gradual, under medical supervision, to avoid withdrawal symptoms.

Antiepileptic Drugs

Antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) are treatments prescribed to prevent seizures by stabilizing brain electrical activity. First-line medications include lamotrigine, levetiracetam (Keppra), sodium valproate (Depakine), carbamazepine, and topiramate. The choice depends on the type of seizure, with newer options (lacosamide, cenobamate) offering fewer side effects.

Main antiepileptic drugs:

- Most common (new/second generation): Lamotrigine, Levetiracetam, Topiramate, Oxcarbazepine, Gabapentin.
- First generation: Phenobarbital, Phenytoin, Sodium valproate, Carbamazepine.

Key points and precautions:

- **Spectrum of action:** Some are effective against several types of seizures (e.g., valproate), while others are targeted.
- **Side effects:** Fatigue, dizziness, digestive problems, and risk of serious skin reactions (particularly with lamotrigine).
- **Pregnancy:** Sodium valproate is strongly discouraged for women of childbearing age due to the risk of teratogenicity (birth defects).
- **Follow-up:** These treatments often require gradual adjustment by a neurologist.

Antiparkinsonian Medications

Antiparkinsonian medications aim to compensate for the lack of dopamine in the brain to treat motor symptoms (akinesia, rigidity, tremors). The main treatments include L-dopa (Modopar, Sinemet), dopamine agonists (Sifrol, Requip), and enzyme inhibitors (MAOIs, COMT inhibitors). They require strict adjustment by a neurologist.

Main drug classes:

- **L-dopa (Levodopa):** A dopamine precursor, often combined with benserazide (Modopar) or carbidopa (Sinemet).
- **Dopamine agonists:** These mimic the action of dopamine. Examples: Pramipexole (Sifrol), Ropinirol (Requip), Rotigotine (Neupro, patch), Piribedil (Trivastal).
- **Monoamine oxidase B inhibitors (MAOIs):** Selegiline, Rasagiline.
- **Catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) inhibitors:** Entacapone, Opicapone.
- **Amantadine:** Used to reduce dyskinesia.
- **Anticholinergics:** Trihexyphenidyl (Artane), primarily for tremors in young people. Side effects: These treatments can cause nausea, dizziness, and impulse control disorders (compulsive shopping, hypersexuality, excessive gambling), requiring close monitoring. Medications should be taken at fixed times, often 30 minutes before or 2 hours after protein-rich meals for L-dopa.

Antipyretic Medications

Antipyretic medications are used to reduce fever (temperature $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) and relieve pain. Paracetamol (Doliprane, Dafalgan, Efferalgan) is the first-line treatment (500 mg–1 g, max 3 g/day). Ibuprofen (Advil, Nurofen) and aspirin are alternatives, primarily for adults.

Main Antipyretics:

- Paracetamol: The standard treatment, well-tolerated (Doliprane, Dafalgan, Efferalgan, Claradol).
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs): Ibuprofen (Advil, Nurofen), Ketoprofen.
- Aspirin: Acetylsalicylic acid.

Directions for Use:

- Adults: 500 mg to 1 g of paracetamol every 4 to 6 hours. Do not exceed 3 g/day without medical advice.
- Children: Dosage based on weight, generally 60 mg/kg/day, divided into 4 or 6 doses (i.e., 15 mg/kg every 6 hours).
- Associated measures: Stay well hydrated and avoid overdressing.
- Consult a doctor: If fever persists for more than 3 days

Cannabinoid Medications

Cannabinoid (THC/CBD) medications are pharmaceutical products approved for specific uses, such as multiple sclerosis, certain types of epilepsy, or chronic pain. Prescribed by doctors, they include products like Sativex (for spasticity) and Epidyolex (for epilepsy). They differ from illicit synthetic cannabinoids.

Main Medications and Uses:

- Sativex (THC:CBD): Used to treat spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis.
- Epidyolex (pure CBD): Indicated for certain forms of epilepsy (Dravet/Lennox-Gastaut syndrome).
- Marinol/Dronabinol (THC): Sometimes used to treat severe nausea associated with chemotherapy or anorexia related to AIDS.

Medical Use and Regulations:

- Prescription: These medications require a medical prescription and have an identification number (DIN or AMM).
- Legal Framework: In France, the experimentation of medical cannabis is structured with oversight by the HAS (French National Authority for Health). Belgium authorizes Sativex.
- Contraindications: Pregnancy and breastfeeding are generally contraindications, as THC crosses the placenta.

Risks and Effects:

- Side effects may include dizziness, fatigue, cognitive impairment, or a drop in blood pressure.
- Medical cannabis should not be confused with "synthetic cannabinoids" (e.g., Spice, K2), which are dangerous, uncontrolled, and can cause psychosis and seizures.

Psycholeptic Medications

A psycholeptic medication is a psychotropic drug that slows brain activity, reducing emotional tension and alertness (sedative). It is used to treat anxiety, insomnia, and psychosis. They are classified into three main groups: neuroleptics (antipsychotics), anxiolytics (tranquilizers), and hypnotics.

Main subclasses and examples (according to VIDAL and Wikipedia):

- Neuroleptics (Antipsychotics): Act on schizophrenia and delusions. Examples: Haldol, Tercian, Largactil, Dogmatil, Clopixol.

- Anxiolytics (Tranquilizers): Used for anxiety. Examples: Benzodiazepines (Valium, Lexomil, Xanax).

- Hypnotics: Used for insomnia. Examples: Barbiturates, Z-drugs.

Characteristics:

- Action: They calm the central nervous system.

- Risks: Drowsiness, decreased alertness, risk of dependence (especially with benzodiazepines).

- Monitoring: Medical supervision is necessary due to potential side effects.