

Orodispersible tablet

EXCIPIENTS: May contain Aspartame

▶ **Zolmitriptan (Non-proprietary)****Zolmitriptan 2.5 mg** Zolmitriptan 2.5mg orodispersible tablets sugar-free | 6 tablet [PoM] £20.35 DT = £11.50**Zolmitriptan 5 mg** Zolmitriptan 5mg orodispersible tablets sugar-free | 6 tablet [PoM] £20.35 DT = £13.41▶ **Zomig Rapimelt** (Grünenthal Ltd)**Zolmitriptan 2.5 mg** Zomig Rapimelt 2.5mg orodispersible tablets sugar-free | 6 tablet [PoM] £23.99 DT = £11.50**Zolmitriptan 5 mg** Zomig Rapimelt 5mg orodispersible tablets sugar-free | 6 tablet [PoM] £23.94 DT = £13.41**Tablet**▶ **Zolmitriptan (Non-proprietary)****Zolmitriptan 2.5 mg** Zolmitriptan 2.5mg tablets | 6 tablet [PoM] £23.94 DT = £6.20 | 12 tablet [PoM] £18.16-£28.00**Zolmitriptan 5 mg** Zolmitriptan 5mg tablets | 6 tablet [PoM] £4.27 DT = £3.60 | 12 tablet [PoM] £7.20▶ **Zomig** (Grünenthal Ltd)**Zolmitriptan 2.5 mg** Zomig 2.5mg tablets | 6 tablet [PoM] £23.94 DT = £6.20

6.2 Neuropathic pain

Neuropathic pain

Overview and management

Neuropathic pain, which occurs as a result of damage to neural tissue, includes *phantom limb pain*, *compression neuropathies*, *peripheral neuropathies* (e.g. due to Diabetic complications p. 726, chronic excessive alcohol intake, HIV infection p. 677, chemotherapy, idiopathic neuropathy), *trauma*, *central pain* (e.g. pain following stroke, spinal cord injury, and syringomyelia), and *postherpetic neuralgia* (peripheral nerve damage following acute herpes zoster infection (shingles)). The pain may occur in an area of sensory deficit and is sometimes accompanied by pain that is evoked by a non-noxious stimulus (allodynia).

Trigeminal neuralgia is also caused by dysfunction of neural tissue, but its management is distinct from other forms of neuropathic pain.

Neuropathic pain is generally managed with a **tricyclic antidepressant** or with certain **antiepileptic drugs**. Amitriptyline hydrochloride p. 390 and pregabalin p. 341 are effective treatments for neuropathic pain. Amitriptyline hydrochloride and pregabalin can be used in combination if the patient has an inadequate response to either drug at the maximum tolerated dose.

Nortriptyline p. 395 [unlicensed indication] may be better tolerated than amitriptyline hydrochloride.

Gabapentin p. 331 is also effective for the treatment of neuropathic pain.

Neuropathic pain may respond to **opioid analgesics**. There is evidence of efficacy for tramadol hydrochloride p. 491, morphine p. 484, and oxycodone hydrochloride p. 487; however, treatment with morphine or oxycodone hydrochloride should be initiated only under specialist supervision. Tramadol hydrochloride can be prescribed when other treatments have been unsuccessful, while the patient is waiting for assessment by a specialist.

Patients with localised pain who are unable to take oral medicines may benefit from **topical local anaesthetic preparations**, such as lidocaine hydrochloride medicated plasters p. 1422, while awaiting specialist review.

Capsaicin below is licensed for neuropathic pain (but the intense burning sensation during initial treatment may limit use). Capsaicin 0.075% cream is licensed for the symptomatic relief of *postherpetic neuralgia*. A self-adhesive patch containing capsaicin 8% is licensed for the treatment of peripheral neuropathic pain. It should be used under specialist supervision.

A corticosteroid may help to relieve pressure in compression neuropathy and thereby reduce pain.

Neuromodulation by spinal cord stimulation may be of benefit in some patients. Many patients with chronic neuropathic pain require multidisciplinary management, including physiotherapy and psychological support.

Trigeminal neuralgia

Surgery may be the treatment of choice in many patients; a neurological assessment will identify those who stand to benefit. Carbamazepine p. 327 taken during the acute stages of trigeminal neuralgia, reduces the frequency and severity of attacks. It is very effective for the severe pain associated with trigeminal neuralgia and (less commonly) glossopharyngeal neuralgia. Blood counts and electrolytes should be monitored when high doses are given. Small doses should be used initially to reduce the incidence of side-effects e.g. dizziness. Some cases respond to phenytoin p. 339; the drug may be given by intravenous infusion (possibly as fosphenytoin sodium p. 330) in a crisis (specialist use only).

Chronic facial pain

Chronic oral and facial pain including *persistent idiopathic facial pain* (also termed 'atypical facial pain') and *temporomandibular dysfunction* (previously termed temporomandibular joint pain dysfunction syndrome) may call for prolonged use of analgesics or for other drugs. **Tricyclic antidepressants** may be useful for facial pain [unlicensed indication], but are not on the Dental Practitioners' List. Disorders of this type require specialist referral and psychological support to accompany drug treatment. Patients on long-term therapy need to be monitored both for progress and for side-effects.

Other drugs used for Neuropathic pain Amantadine hydrochloride, p. 437

ANALGESICS > PLANT ALKALOIDS

Capsaicin

03-Mar-2020

● **INDICATIONS AND DOSE****Localised neuropathic pain**

▶ TO THE SKIN USING CREAM

▶ Adult: Apply 3–4 times a day, using 0.075% strength; apply sparingly, not more often than every 4 hours

AXSAIN®**Post-herpetic neuralgia**

▶ TO THE SKIN

▶ Adult: Apply 3–4 times a day, apply sparingly; **important**; after lesions have healed, not more often than every 4 hours**Painful diabetic neuropathy (under expert supervision)**

▶ TO THE SKIN

▶ Adult: Apply 3–4 times a day for 8 weeks then review, apply sparingly, not more often than every 4 hours

QUTENZA®**Peripheral neuropathic pain (under the supervision of a physician)**

▶ BY TRANSDERMAL APPLICATION USING PATCHES

▶ Adult: (consult product literature)

ZACIN®**Symptomatic relief in osteoarthritis**

▶ TO THE SKIN

▶ Adult: Apply 4 times a day, apply sparingly, not more often than every 4 hours

- **UNLICENSED USE** [EvGr] Capsaicin is used in the treatment of localised neuropathic pain, <E> but is not licensed for this indication.