

Master the Essentials: Nervous System Medications—cont'd

Class	Use	Side Effects	Contraindications and Precautions	Interactions	Example
Acetaminophen	Pain, fever	Rash, urticaria (high dosages can cause liver failure)	Alcohol abuse, hypersensitivity, liver disease, malnutrition	Alcohol, oral contraceptives, phenytoin, loop diuretics	Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
NSAIDs	Pain, fever, inflammation	Blurred vision, constipation, dizziness, drowsiness, dyspepsia, edema, GI bleeding, headache, hepatitis, irregular heart rate, kidney disorders, prolonged bleeding, psychic disturbances, rash, tinnitus	Active GI bleeding, CV disease, hypersensitivity, liver disease, pregnancy, renal disease, ulcer	Corticosteroids, salicylates, cyclosporine, anticoagulants, beta blockers, digoxin	Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin)
Opioid analgesics	Moderate to severe pain	Decreased blood pressure, heart rate, and respirations; agitation, blurred vision, confusion, constipation, flushing, headache, oversedation, rash, restlessness, seizures, urinary retention	Lactation and pregnancy, patients with head injury, CNS depression, COPD, hypothyroidism, liver or kidney disease; used with caution in addicted patients, children, elderly patients, hypersensitive patients, suicidal patients	Alcohol, antiemetics, antihistamines, antihypertensives, antiarrhythmics, muscle relaxers, psychotropics, sedative-hypnotics	Morphine, meperidine (Demerol), hydromorphone (Dilaudid), fentanyl (Sublimaze)
Non-narcotic benzodiazepine hypnotics	Insomnia	Outgoing or aggressive behavior, confusion, agitation, hallucinations, worsening of depression, suicidal thoughts or actions, memory loss, anxiety, sleep activity	Hypersensitivity to ingredients, pregnancy, lactation, children	Alcohol, paroxetine, lorazepam, olanzapine	Zolpidem (Ambien), eszopiclone (Lunesta)

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