

## Chronic pain: assessment and management

[J] Evidence review for pharmacological management

*NICE guideline*

*Intervention evidence review underpinning recommendations 1.3.7 to 1.3.12 and the research recommendations in the NICE guideline*

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*This evidence review was developed by  
the National Guideline Centre*



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# 1 Pharmacological management

## 1.1 Review question: What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of pharmacological interventions for chronic primary pain?

### 1.2 Introduction

Medicines have been the mainstay of pain treatment for centuries. Products with an established role in the successful management of acute (short term and self-limiting) pain include paracetamol, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and opioids. These drugs are also prescribed and taken for longer periods when pain persists. The rapid expansion of our knowledge of the behaviour of the nervous system in preclinical models of longer-term pain, particularly nerve injury and inflammation, led to the exploration of novel molecular targets to try to improve the success of pharmacological treatments for chronic pain. There is a scientific rationale for the use of medicines for chronic pain already in use for other conditions involving the central nervous system, notably antidepressant and anti-epileptic drugs, as well as benzodiazepines and antipsychotic medicines. More recently developed compounds, including gabapentin, pregabalin and duloxetine were developed and promoted for both pain relieving and other indications. All medicines used for pain achieve their effects by interruption of fundamental systems involved in sensory processing, and as a group their use is associated with a range of central nervous system side effects.

Medicines are rarely the sole treatment of choice in chronic pain but they might be considered as adjuncts to other therapeutic interventions and self-management strategies. They are often prescribed with the aim of supporting maintenance of physical function but side effects can limit their usefulness.

When prescribing for pain it is important to reflect on not only the neurobiological rationale for their use but also the emotional, cultural and social determinants and personal consequences of the pain experience that can shape the likely response to medicines that have specific molecular targets in pain processing systems.

This review intends to explore the efficacy of a range of medicines that are prescribed for people with chronic primary pain.

### 1.3 PICO table

For full details see the review protocol in appendix A.

**Table 1: PICO characteristics of review question**

<b>Population</b>	People, aged 16 years and over, with chronic primary pain (whose pain management is not addressed by existing NICE guidance). This includes chronic widespread pain, complex regional pain syndrome, chronic visceral pain, chronic orofacial pain and chronic primary musculoskeletal pain other than orofacial pain.
<b>Intervention(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oral paracetamol</li><li>• Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (by any route)</li><li>• Ketamine (by any route)</li><li>• Topical or intravenous local anaesthetics</li><li>• Local anaesthetics and/or corticosteroids by injection (trigger point)</li><li>• Oral or transdermal, intrathecal opioids (morphine, oxycodone, hydromorphone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, methadone, meptazinol, tapentadol,</li></ul>

	<p>targinact, codeine, dihydrocodeine, tramadol, cocodamol, codydramol, naltrexone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral anti-epilepsy drugs (gabapentin, pregabalin, sodium valproate, carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, topiramate, lamotrigine, lacosamide, levetiracetam)</li> <li>• Oral anti-depressants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. Amitriptyline, nortriptyline, clomipramine, imipramine)</li> <li>○ Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (e.g. Fluoxetine, citalopram)</li> <li>○ Serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors (e.g. Duloxetine, venlafaxine)</li> <li>○ Tetracyclic antidepressants (mirtazapine)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Oral cannabinoids (nabilone, nabixamols oromucosal spray)</li> <li>• Antipsychotics (olanzapine, quetiapine, risperidone, aripiprazole)</li> <li>• Benzodiazepines (diazepam, oxazepam, lorazepam, temazepam, nitrazepam, clonazepam)</li> </ul>
<b>Comparison(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each other (drug class)*</li> <li>• Placebo</li> </ul> <p>*A stepped approach will be taken for within-class comparisons. If the evidence suggests superiority of a particular class after the class-comparison, within class comparison of that class will be explored.</p>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>Critical:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Health related quality of life (including meaningful activity)</li> <li>• Physical function</li> <li>• Psychological distress (depression/ anxiety)</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul> <p>Important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of healthcare services</li> <li>• Sleep</li> </ul> <p>Outcomes will be extracted at the longest time point up to 3 months and at the longest time point after 3 months.</p>
<b>Study design</b>	RCTs and systematic reviews of RCTs. Crossover RCTs will be considered if no non-crossover RCT evidence is identified. Enriched enrolment trials will be excluded.

## 1.4 Clinical evidence

### 1.4.1 Included studies

3 33 studies were included in the review<sup>2, 37, 39, 40, 45, 49, 50, 73, 112, 122, 213, 214, 232, 274, 276, 310, 331, 335, 346, 349, 353, 402,</sup>  
4 424, 470, 504, 506, 525, 536, 538, 548, 592, 632, 642; and these are summarised in Table 3 below. The following  
5 comparisons were included in the review:

- 6 • 7 studies were identified that compared anti-epileptics with placebo
- 7 • 7 studies were identified that compared serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors with  
8 placebo
- 9 • 6 studies were identified that compared selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors with  
10 placebo



- 1 • 6 studies were identified that compared tricyclic antidepressants with placebo
  - 2 • 1 study was identified that compared tetracyclic antidepressants with placebo
  - 3 • 3 studies were identified that compared benzodiazepines with placebo
  - 4 • 3 studies were identified that compared non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs with
  - 5 placebo
  - 6 • 2 studies were identified that compared local anaesthetics with placebo
  - 7 • 2 studies were identified that compared benzodiazepines with non-steroidal anti-
  - 8 inflammatory drugs
  - 9 • 1 study was identified that compared cannabinoids with placebo
  - 10 • 1 study was identified that compared serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors with
  - 11 anti-epileptics.
- 12 See also the study selection flow chart in appendix C, study evidence tables in appendix D,  
13 forest plots in appendix E and GRADE tables in appendix F.

#### 1.4.2 Excluded studies

- 15 49 Cochrane reviews were identified that were relevant to this review question, however  
16 none of these met the inclusion criteria for this review to enable them to be incorporated  
17 without further analysis (see Table 2 below). All Cochrane reviews were cross-referenced  
18 and checked for studies relevant to this review question.

19 **Table 2: Summary of Cochrane reviews identified**

Cochrane review	Exclusion reason
Aboumarzouk 2012 <sup>3</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap)
Birse 2012 <sup>77</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Cepeda 2005 <sup>118</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap)
Cooper 2017 <sup>146</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap)
Cooper 2017 <sup>145</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain)
Cording 2015 <sup>148</sup>	Drug not available in the UK
Corrigan 2012 <sup>150</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Derry 2016 <sup>165</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Derry 2016 <sup>166</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap), minimum trial duration requirement of 8 weeks
Derry 2016 <sup>167</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain)
Derry 2017 <sup>168</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap)
Derry 2017 <sup>169</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Duehmke 2017 <sup>182</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain)
Els 2017 <sup>193</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap), incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Els 2017 <sup>195</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain), different outcomes (some overlap)
Furlan 2006 <sup>221</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain), different outcomes (some overlap)
Gaskell 2014 <sup>226</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain)
Gaskell 2016 <sup>227</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap)
Gaskell 2017 <sup>225</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain)

Cochrane review	Exclusion reason
Gill 2011 <sup>231</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
González 2007 <sup>241</sup>	Protocol
Haroutounian 2012 <sup>263</sup>	Incorrect population (included pain other than chronic primary pain)
Häuser 2013 <sup>269</sup>	Minimum trial duration of 4 weeks, incorrect interventions (includes milnacipran)
Hauser 2015 <sup>265</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap)
Lunn 2014 <sup>345</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
McMillan 2016 <sup>367</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap)
McNaughton 2001 <sup>368</sup>	Incorrect interventions (includes non-pharmacological)
McNicol 2013 <sup>370</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain)
McNicol 2017 <sup>369</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain)
Moore 2005 <sup>392</sup>	Not cochrane review
Moore 2009 <sup>393</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap), incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Moore 2011 <sup>394</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Moore 2015 <sup>391</sup>	Minimum trial duration of 4 weeks, different outcomes (some overlap)
Noble 2010 <sup>422</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
O'Connell 2013 <sup>428</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap), incorrect interventions (includes non-pharmacological)
Santos 2015 <sup>511</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap), incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Seidel 2013 <sup>526</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap), incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Stannard 2016 <sup>551</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain)
Walitt 2015 <sup>607</sup>	Included crossover studies, minimum trial duration of 4 weeks
Walitt 2016 <sup>605</sup>	Included crossover studies, minimum trial duration of 4 weeks, different outcomes (no pain reduction outcome)
Walitt 2016 <sup>606</sup>	Included crossover studies, minimum trial duration of 4 weeks, different outcomes (no pain reduction outcome)
Wiffen 2005 <sup>623</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2011 <sup>628</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2013 <sup>626</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2013 <sup>624</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2013 <sup>625</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2014 <sup>627</sup>	Incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2016 <sup>630</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain)

Cochrane review	Exclusion reason
Zakrzewska 2005 <sup>646</sup>	Different outcomes (some overlap), incorrect interventions (includes non-pharmacological)

1

2 Although some studies were identified on the use of opioids for chronic pain, none of these  
3 met the eligibility criteria for this review. For example some studies included participants with  
4 pain caused by cancer, musculoskeletal diseases or neuropathic pain, rather than being  
5 specific to chronic primary pain. A number of systematic reviews related to opioid use for  
6 chronic pain were identified in this review and cross referenced for additional references.  
7 However, all of these reviews identified a limited amount of evidence. Further details are  
8 listed in the excluded studies list in appendix I.

9 See the excluded studies list in Appendix I:.

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## 1.4.2 Summary of clinical studies included in the evidence review

3 **Table 3: Summary of studies included in the evidence review**

Study	Interventions	Population	Outcomes	Comments
Abdelhafeez 2019 <sup>2</sup>	Intervention: Gabapentin 900-2400mg/day (n=30)  Comparison: Placebo (n=30)	Women with chronic pelvic pain Age mean 31.5 years Mean pain duration: 16.5 months N=60	At 12 and 24 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	Median maximum dose achieved was 2100mg per day.
Arnold 2002 <sup>40</sup>	Intervention: Fluoxetine 10-80mg/day (n=30)  Comparison: Placebo (n=30)	Women with fibromyalgia Age mean 46 Mean(SD) pain duration: 11(9) years N=60	At 12 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Physical function</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> </ul>	63% had history of major depression.
Arnold 2005 <sup>45</sup>	Intervention: Duloxetine 60mg/day (QID or BID) (n=116)  Comparison: Placebo (n=120)	Women with fibromyalgia Age mean 49.6 years N=236	At 12 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> <li>• Sleep</li> </ul>	26% had major depressive disorder. Duration of pain not stated.
Arnold 2007 <sup>39</sup>	Intervention: Gabapentin (median dose 1800mg/day, n=75)  Comparison: Placebo (n=75)	Fibromyalgia Aged over 18 years N=150	At 12 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> <li>• Sleep</li> </ul>	Inclusion criteria: score of >5 on average pain severity item of Brief Pain Inventory  Duration of pain not stated

Study	Interventions	Population	Outcomes	Comments
Arnold 2010 <sup>37</sup>	Intervention: Duloxetine 60-120mg/day (n=263)  Comparison: Placebo (n=267)	Fibromyalgia Aged over 18 years N=386	At 12 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	18% had major depressive disorder Duration of pain not stated
Arnold 2012 <sup>50</sup>	Intervention: Duloxetine 30mg/day (n=155) Comparison: Placebo (n=153)	Fibromyalgia Age mean 51 years Mean pain duration 6.5 years N=308	At 12 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	
Arnold 2019 <sup>49</sup>	Intervention: Pregabalin 150mg twice per day.(n=964) Comparison: Placebo (n=966)	Fibromyalgia Age mean 50 years Mean pain duration 5.14 years N=1930	At 13 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> </ul>	Washout period took place before randomisation whereby participants discontinued medicines that were not allowed in the study. Paracetamol and some non-pharmacological approaches (such as massage) were allowed for breakthrough fibromyalgia pain.
Bidari 2019 <sup>73</sup>	Intervention: Duloxetine 30mg/day (n=60)  Intervention: Pregabalin 75mg/day (n=39)	Fibromyalgia Age mean (SD): Duloxetine group 41.6 (9.02), Pregabalin group 43.1 (7.78) Duration of fibromyalgia in months, median (range): Duloxetine group 24 (0-240) Pregabalin group 36 (0-240) N=99	At 4 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	Range of months with fibromyalgia is reported as 0-240. It was assumed that this meant months since diagnosis with fibromyalgia, as 3 months pain/symptoms were required for inclusion as per the ACR 2010 fibromyalgia diagnosis criteria

Study	Interventions	Population	Outcomes	Comments
Carette 1994 <sup>112</sup>	Intervention: Amitriptyline 50mg/day (n=84)  Comparison: Placebo (n=42)	Fibromyalgia Age mean 46 years Mean pain duration: 7.5 years N=126	At 4 weeks and 6 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Physical function</li> </ul>	
Chappell 2008 <sup>122</sup>	Intervention: Duloxetine 60mg/day (n=162)  Comparison: Placebo (n=168)	Fibromyalgia Age mean 50 years N=330	At 27 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Physical function</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	77% diagnosed with major depressive disorder. 43% had previously used antidepressants.  Pain duration not specified.
Foster 2010 <sup>213</sup>	Intervention: Lidocaine, topical 5% cream (n=33)  Comparison: Placebo (n=33)	Vulvodynia Women Age mean 32 years Pain duration: from 4.4 to 6.5 years N=66	At 12 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> </ul>	
Foster 2010 <sup>214</sup>	Intervention: Amitriptyline 10-50mg/day (n=135)  Comparison: Placebo (n= 136)	Interstitial cystitis/painful bladder syndrome Age 18 years and older Mean(SD) pain duration: 6(9.5) years N=271	At 12 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	Treatment naïve
Ginsberg 1996 <sup>232</sup>	Intervention: Amitriptyline 25mg/day (n=44)  Comparison: Placebo (n=22)	Fibromyalgia Age mean 46 years Mean(SD) pain duration: 3.3(4.1) years N=66	Pain reduction at 8 weeks	

Study	Interventions	Population	Outcomes	Comments
Heckmann 2012 <sup>274</sup>	Intervention: Clonazepam 0.5mg/day (n=10)  Comparison: Placebo (n=10)	Burning mouth syndrome Age mean 65 years Mean(SD) pain duration: 3.2 (2.2) years N=20	At 9 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> </ul>	
Heymann 2001 <sup>276</sup>	Intervention: Amitriptyline 25mg/day (n=40)  Intervention: Nortriptyline 25mg/day(n=38)  Comparison: Placebo (n=40)	Fibromyalgia Age mean 50 years N=118	At 8 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of responders</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> </ul>	Pain duration not specified.
Kimos 2007 <sup>310</sup>	Intervention: Gabapentin; maximum dose 4200mg/day (n=25)  Comparison: Placebo (n=25)	Adults with masticatory muscle pain for at least 6 months not attributable to trauma, infection or inflammation Age mean 33.58 years N=50	Pain reduction at 12 weeks	
Lee 2005 <sup>331</sup>	Intervention: Sertraline 50mg/day (n=7)  Comparison: Placebo (n=7)	Men with chronic pelvic pain syndrome Age 18 to 65 years N=14	At 13 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	Pain duration not specified
Lewis 2016 <sup>335</sup>	Intervention: Gabapentin 300- 2700mg/day (n=22)  Comparison: Placebo (n=25)	Women with chronic pelvic pain for at least 6 months with no known pathology Age 18 to 50 years N=47	At 12 weeks and 6 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Physical function</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	

Study	Interventions	Population	Outcomes	Comments
Luo 2009 <sup>346</sup>	Intervention: Fluoxetine 20mg/day (n=40)  Comparison: Placebo (n=40)	Adults with persistent somatoform pain disorder (defined as a pain which cannot be fully explained by a physiological process or physical disorder). Age 18 to 65 years Mean(SD) pain duration: 21(18.7) months N=80	Pain reduction at 8 weeks	Participants with depressive symptoms of 17 or above on the HAMD were excluded
Maarrawi 2018 <sup>349</sup>	Intervention: Amitriptyline 5mg/day (n=112)  Comparison: Placebo (n=108)	Idiopathic chronic neck pain Mean age 44 years Mean pain duration: 81.8% of participants had pain for more than 12 months N=220	At 8 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Physical function</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> <li>• Sleep</li> </ul>	
Mahagna 2016 <sup>353</sup>	Intervention: Etoricoxib 90mg/day (n=32)  Comparison: Placebo (n=32)	Fibromyalgia Mean age 50 years Mean (SD) pain duration: 4.3(6.4) years N=64	At 6 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of responders</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	45% on antidepressant treatment
Murakami 2015 <sup>402</sup>	Intervention: Duloxetine 60mg/day (n=196)  Comparison: Placebo (n=197)	Fibromyalgia Mean age 48.7 years Mean(D) pain duration: 5.6(6.3) years N=393	At 14 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Physical function</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	



Study	Interventions	Population	Outcomes	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sleep</li> </ul>	
Norregaard 1995 <sup>424</sup>	<p>Intervention: Citalopram 40mg/day (n=21)</p> <p>Comparison: Placebo (n=21)</p>	<p>Fibromyalgia</p> <p>Mean age 49 years</p> <p>Mean(SD) pain duration: 10(9) years</p> <p>N=42</p>	<p>At 8 weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical function</li> <li>Psychological distress</li> </ul>	25% took daily paracetamol
Pontari 2010 <sup>470</sup>	<p>Intervention: Pregabalin (150mg/day for 2 weeks, 300mg/day for 2 weeks, 600mg/day for 2 weeks, n=218)</p> <p>Comparison: Placebo (n=106)</p>	<p>Men with pelvic pain for at least 3 months</p> <p>Mean age 47 years</p> <p>N=324</p>	<p>At 6 weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pain reduction</li> <li>Quality of life</li> <li>Psychological distress</li> </ul>	Inclusion criteria: score of >16 on National Institute of Health Chronic Prostatitis Symptoms Index
Russell 1991 <sup>504</sup>	<p>Intervention: Ibuprofen 2400mg/day (n= 17)</p> <p>Intervention: Alprazolam, maximum dose 3mg/day (n=17)</p> <p>Comparison: placebo (n=14)</p>	<p>Fibromyalgia</p> <p>Mean age: 47.3 years</p> <p>Mean(SD) pain duration: 8.9(1) years</p> <p>N=48</p>	<p>At 6 weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pain reduction</li> <li>Physical function</li> <li>Psychological distress</li> </ul>	60.2% had anxiety, 57.7% had chronic headache, 39.7% had irritable bowel syndrome
Russell 2008 <sup>506</sup>	<p>Intervention: Duloxetine (20-120mg/day) (n=376)</p> <p>Comparison: Placebo (n=144)</p>	<p>Fibromyalgia</p> <p>Mean age 51 years</p> <p>N=520</p>	<p>At 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pain reduction</li> <li>Quality of life</li> <li>Physical function</li> <li>Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	25% had a diagnosis of major depressive disorder Pain duration not specified
Scudds 1995 <sup>525</sup>	<p>Intervention: Topical lidocaine 4% (n=31)</p> <p>Comparison: Placebo (n=30)</p>	<p>42 adults with fibromyalgia and 19 with myofascial pain syndrome</p> <p>Mean age 45 years.</p>	Number of responders at 3 weeks	

Study	Interventions	Population	Outcomes	Comments
		Mean(SD) pain duration: 8.7(7.8) years N=61		
Singer 1997 <sup>536</sup>	Intervention 1: Diazepam 5mg/day (n=16)  Intervention 2: Ibuprofen 2400mg/day (n=17)  Comparison: Placebo (n=16)	Chronic orofacial muscle pain Mean age 36.1 years Mean(SD) pain duration: at least 3 months N=49	At 4 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> </ul>	Clinical or radiographic evidence of TMJ pathology were exclusionary criteria
Skrabek 2008 <sup>538</sup>	Intervention: Nabilone 2mg/day (n=20)  Comparison: Placebo (n=20)	Fibromyalgia Mean age 48 years N=40	At 8 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	Pain duration not specified  Results for pain reduction and quality of life outcomes reported insufficiently to allow quality assessment or analysis.
Spinhoven 2010 <sup>548</sup>	Paroxetine max dose 40mg/day (n=23)  Comparison: Placebo (n=23)	Non-cardiac chest pain Mean age 57.4 years Mean(SD) pain duration: 6(7.1) N=46	At 12 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> </ul>	Excluding major depression 28% had an anxiety disorder
van Ophoven 2004 <sup>592</sup>	Intervention: Amitriptyline maximum dose 100mg/day (n=26)  Comparison: Placebo (n=26)	Interstitial cystitis Mean age 55 years Mean(SD) pain duration: 3.8(5) years N=52	At 16 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	Met the National institute of diabetes, digestive and kidney diseases definition of interstitial cystitis.
Wolfe 1994 <sup>632</sup>	Intervention: Fluoxetine 20mg/day (n=21)  Comparison: Placebo (n=21)	Adults aged 21 to 70 years with fibromyalgia Mean pain duration:13 years N=42	At 6 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain reduction</li> <li>• Physical function</li> <li>• Psychological distress</li> </ul>	

Study	Interventions	Population	Outcomes	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> <li>Sleep</li> </ul>	
Yeephu 2013 <sup>642</sup> (Suttiruksa 2016 <sup>562</sup> )	Intervention: Mirtazapine 15-30mg/day (n=27)  Comparison: Placebo (n=13)	Fibromyalgia Age 18 years and over Mean(SD) pain duration: 19(9.5) years N=40	At 13 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of life</li> <li>Number of responders</li> <li>Discontinuation due to adverse events</li> </ul>	

1 See appendix D for full evidence tables.

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#### 1.4.4 Quality assessment of clinical studies included in the evidence review

4 **Table 4: Clinical evidence summary: Anti-epileptics versus placebo**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Anti-epileptics versus placebo (95% CI)
Pain reduction at ≤3 months (VAS, Brief Pain Inventory average pain severity score, range, McGill pain questionnaire, high is poor outcome, final values)	508 (4 studies) 6-12 weeks	MODERATE <sup>2</sup> due to risk of bias		-	The mean pain score in the intervention groups was 0.45 standard deviations lower (0.63 to 0.27 lower)
Pain reduction at ≤3 months (VAS percentage reduction, change scores)	44 (1 study) 12 weeks	VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean pain reduction in the control groups was 24.3	The mean pain reduction in the intervention groups was 27.1 higher (2.5 to 51.7 higher)
Pain reduction at >3 months (VAS, 0-10, high is poor)	59 (2 studies) 3-6 months	LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of		The mean pain score in the control groups was 5	The mean pain score in the intervention groups was 1.68 lower (2.3 lower to 1.05 lower)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Anti-epileptics versus placebo (95% CI)
outcome, final values); chronic pelvic pain subgroup		bias, imprecision			
Pain reduction at >3 months (Average daily pain score, 0-10, high is poor outcome, change scores); fibromyalgia subgroup	1902 (1 study) 13 weeks	HIGH		The mean pain change score in the control group was -1.81	The mean pain score in the intervention groups was 0.56 lower (0.77 lower to 0.35 lower)
Quality of life at ≤3 months (SF-12 physical component, high is good outcome, 0-100, final values)	317 (1 study) 12 weeks	MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control groups was 44.3	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 2.6 higher (0.14 higher to 5.06 higher)
Quality of life ≤3 months (SF-12 mental component, high is good outcome, 0-100, final values)	317 (1 study) 12 weeks	HIGH		The mean quality of life in the control group was 44.6	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 0.4 higher (2.15 lower to 2.95 higher)
Quality of life at ≤3 months (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome, final values)	119 (1 study) 12 weeks	LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control groups was 37.3	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 11.1 lower (17.07 to 5.13 lower)
Quality of life at >3 months (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome, change scores)	1898 (1 study) 13 weeks	HIGH		The mean quality of life in the control groups was -14.04	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 5.11 lower (7.03 to 3.19 lower)
Physical function at ≤3 months (Pain Disability Questionnaire function subscale, 0-90, high is poor outcome, final values)	25 (1 study) 12 weeks	MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to imprecision		The mean physical function in the control groups was 23	The mean physical function in the intervention groups was 6.4 higher (8.35 lower to 21.15 higher)
Physical function at >3 months (Pain Disability Questionnaire)	25 (1 study) 6 months	LOW <sup>1</sup> due to imprecision		The mean physical function in the	The mean physical function in the intervention groups was 3.6 higher (12.5 lower to 19.7 higher)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Anti-epileptics versus placebo (95% CI)
function subscale, 0-90 high is poor outcome)				control groups was 20.3	
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale anxiety subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	25 (1 study) 12 weeks	VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean psychological distress in the control groups was 8.2	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.1 lower (3.91 lower to 3.71 higher)
Psychological distress at >3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale anxiety subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	25 (1 study) 6 months	LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean psychological distress in the control groups was 9.8	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 2.3 lower (6.61 lower to 2.01 higher)
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale depression subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	26 (1 study) 12 weeks	VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean psychological distress in the control groups was 4.7	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.8 higher (2.44 lower to 4.04 higher)
Psychological distress at >3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale depression subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	25 (1 study) 6 months	VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean psychological distress in the control groups was 4.9	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.3 higher (3.2 lower to 3.8 higher)
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	313 (1 study) 6 weeks	HIGH		The mean psychological distress in the control group was 12.2	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.2 higher (1.64 lower to 2.04 higher)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (reasons not specified)	119 (1 study) 12 weeks	LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision	RR 1.86 (0.79 to 4.41)	113 per 1000	97 more per 1000 (from 24 fewer to 385 more)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Anti-epileptics versus placebo (95% CI)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at >3 months (reasons not specified)	107 (2 studies) 3-6 months	MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to imprecision	RR 3.25 (1.01 to 10.5)	55 per 1000	123 more per 1000 (from 1 fewer to 518 more)
Sleep at ≤3 months (Medical Outcomes Study Sleep Problems index score, 0-100, high is poor outcome, final values)	119 (1 study) 12 weeks	LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean sleep score in the control groups was 47.8	The mean sleep score in the intervention group was 14.4 lower (21.64 to 7.16 lower)

<sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

<sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias

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2 **Table 5: Clinical evidence summary: SSRIs versus placebo**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with SSRIs versus placebo (95% CI)
Pain reduction final values (VAS, medical outcomes study pain measure, high is poor outcome) ≤3 months	150 (3 studies) 6-8 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2,3</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision, inconsistency		-	The mean pain score in the intervention groups was 0.41 standard deviations lower (1.08 lower to 0.27 higher)
Pain reduction change scores (McGill pain questionnaire, Prostatitis symptom severity scale, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	65 (2 studies) 12-13 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		-	The mean pain score in the intervention groups was 0.65 standard deviations lower (1.16 to 0.15 lower)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with SSRIs versus placebo (95% CI)
Pain reduction (VAS final values, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	46 (1 study) 16 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean pain score in the control groups was 2.35	The mean pain score in the intervention groups was 0.25 lower (1.35 lower to 0.85 higher)
Quality of life at ≤3 months (FIQ total scores, 0-100, high is poor outcome, change scores)	51 (1 study) 12 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean change in quality of life in the control groups was +2.9	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 11.5 lower (19.22 to 3.78 lower)
Physical function (HAQ total scores, FIQ physical function subscale, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months	66 (2 studies) 6-8 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		-	The mean physical function in the intervention groups was 0.06 standard deviations lower (0.55 lower to 0.43 higher)
Physical function (physical impairment on Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-9.99, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months	51 (1 study) 12 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean change in physical function in the control groups was -0.4	The mean change in physical function in the intervention groups was 0.7 lower (1.91 lower to 0.51 higher)
Psychological distress (FIQ depression subscale, HADS-D, beck depression inventory, high is poor outcome) change scores ≤3 months	107 (3 studies) 12 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		-	The mean change in psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.32 standard deviations lower (0.71 lower to 0.06 higher)
Psychological distress (FIQ anxiety subscale, AIMS anxiety, high is poor outcome) change scores at ≤3 months	65 (2 studies) 12 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		-	The mean change in psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.19 standard deviations lower (0.69 lower to 0.3 higher)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with SSRIs versus placebo (95% CI)
Psychological distress (Beck depression scale, HADS:A, high is poor outcome) final values at ≤3 months	70 (2 studies) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		-	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.79 standard deviations lower (1.28 to 0.3 lower)
Psychological distress (HADS:A, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values) at >3 months	46 (1 study) 16 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean psychological distress in the control groups was 7	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 2.3 lower (4.12 to 0.48 lower)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (due to gastrointestinal problems)	24 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision	RR 0.6 (0.04 to 8.46)	111 per 1000	44 fewer per 1000 (from 107 fewer to 829 more)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at >3 months (reasons not stated due to no events in intervention arm; placebo discontinuation due to feeling 'spaced out')	14 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW <sup>2</sup> due to imprecision	OR 0.14 (0.00 to 6.82)	143 per 1000	100 fewer per 1000 (from 136 fewer to 107 more)
Sleep (VAS sleep outcome, 0-15, high is poor outcome) final values at ≤3 months	24 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean sleep in the control groups was 7.6	The mean sleep in the intervention groups was 0 higher (2.95 lower to 2.95 higher)

<sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias  
<sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.  
<sup>3</sup> Downgraded due to heterogeneity, unexplained by subgroup analysis



1 **Table 6: Clinical evidence summary: SNRIs versus placebo**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with SNRIs versus placebo (95% CI)
Pain reduction (Brief Pain Inventory average pain severity, VAS, high is poor outcome) change scores at ≥3 months	2194 (6 studies) 12-28 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in pain reduction in the control groups was -1.59	The mean pain in the intervention groups was 0.69 lower (0.91 to 0.47 lower)
Quality of life (SF-36 mental component, 0-100, high is good outcome) change scores and final scores at ≤3 months	1112 (3 studies) 7-12 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2,3</sup> due to risk of bias, inconsistency, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control groups was 1.22	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 3.17 higher (2.15 to 4.18 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 physical component, 0-100, high is good outcome) change scores at ≤3 months	1112 (3 studies) 7-12 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, inconsistency		The mean quality of life in the control groups was 3.62	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 1.01 higher (0.68 to 1.35 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 physical functioning subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) change score at >3 months	386 (1 study) 14 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in quality of life in the control groups was 3.04	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 4.36 higher (3.93 to 4.79 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 physical role limitations subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) change score at ≥3 months	386 (1 study) 14 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in quality of life in the control groups was 0.44	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 7.76 higher (7.17 to 8.35 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 bodily pain subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) change score at >3 months	386 (1 study) 14 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in quality of life in the control groups was 5.28	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 5.67 higher (5.26 to 6.08 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 vitality subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) change score at >3 months	386 (1 study) 14 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in quality of life in the control groups was 3.35	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 3.35

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with SNRIs versus placebo (95% CI)
outcome) change score at >3 months		due to risk of bias			6.7 higher (6.2 to 7.2 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 general health perceptions subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) change score at >3 months	386 (1 study) 14 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in quality of life in the control groups was 3.31	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 3.24 higher (2.86 to 3.63 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 social functioning subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) change score at >3 months	386 (1 study) 14 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in quality of life in the control groups was 3.28	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 7.04 higher (6.43 to 7.65 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 mental health subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) change score at >3 months	386 (1 study) 14 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in quality of life in the control groups was -2	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 7.91 higher (7.41 to 8.41 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 emotional role limitations subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) change score at >3 months	386 (1 study) 14 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in quality of life in the control groups was -3.63	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 9.13 higher (8.46 to 9.8 higher)
Quality of life (EQ-5D, 0-1 high is good outcome) change scores at >3 months	520 (1 study) 28 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,3</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean change in quality of life score in the control group was 0.12	The mean change in quality of life in the intervention groups was 0.03 higher (0.04 lower to 0.1 higher)
Quality of life (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome) change scores at >3 months	347 (1 study) 12 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,3</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life change score in the control group was -8.35	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 8.42 lower (12.08 to 4.76 lower)
Physical function (FIQ physical function subscale, Sheehan disability scale global	1231 (3 studies) 12-27 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW <sup>1</sup>			The mean change in physical function in the intervention groups was

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with SNRIs versus placebo (95% CI)
functioning, high is poor outcome) change scores at >3 months		due to risk of bias			0.02 standard deviations lower (0.14 lower to 0.1 higher)
Psychological distress (Beck depression inventory, Hamilton rating scale for depression, high is poor outcome) change scores at >3 months	1731 (5 studies) 12-27 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2,3</sup> due to risk of bias, inconsistency, imprecision			The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 2.02 standard deviations lower (3.62 to 0.41 lower)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≥3 months; multiple reasons, 1 serious adverse event in placebo arm (irritable bowel syndrome)	2367 (6 studies) 12-28 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias	RR 1.71 (1.35 to 2.09)	88 per 1000	60 more per 1000 (from 42 more to 92 more)
Sleep (Jenkins composite score, MOS-Sleep Index I, Brief pain inventory interference score for sleep, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≥3 months	734 (2 studies) 12-14 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,3</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision			The mean sleep in the intervention groups was 0.53 standard deviations lower (0.68 to 0.38 lower)
<sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias <sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment for heterogeneity, unexplained by subgroup analysis <sup>3</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.					

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2 **Table 7: Clinical evidence summary: Tricyclics versus placebo**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Tricyclics versus placebo (95% CI)
Pain reduction (VAS and McGill pain questionnaire, final values, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	371 (3 studies) 4-8 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,3</sup> due to risk of bias, inconsistency		-	The mean pain in the intervention groups was 1.25 standard deviations lower (2.73 lower to 0.24 higher)
Pain reduction (VAS 0-10, high is poor outcome) change scores at ≤3 months	131 (1 study) 12 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in pain score in the control groups was -2.3	The mean change in pain in the interventions groups was 0.30 lower (0.93 lower to 0.33 higher)
Pain reduction change scores (VAS 0-100, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	48 (1 study) 16 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean pain change in the control groups was 1	The mean pain in the intervention groups was 23.8 lower (35.82 to 11.78 lower)
Pain final values (McGill pain questionnaire, 0-78, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	114 (1 study) 28 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean pain in the control groups was 21.6	The mean pain in the intervention groups was 2.1 lower (7.68 lower to 3.48 higher)
Number of responders (Scale of global improvement, great or moderate improvement) at ≤3 months	106 (1 study) 8 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>2</sup> due to imprecision	RR 1.56 (0.99 to 2.48)	394 per 1000	220 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 583 more)
Quality of life final values (FIQ, 0-100, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	106 (1 study) 8 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>2</sup> due to imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control groups was 51.68	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 7.37 lower (10.68 to 4.06 lower)
Physical functioning (NPDI, % improvement) at ≤3 months	212 (1 study) 8 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH		The mean physical functioning % improvement in the control groups was 13.69	The mean physical functioning % improvement in the intervention groups was 28.53 higher (25.05 to 32.01 higher)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Tricyclics versus placebo (95% CI)
Physical function final values (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	122 (1 study) 4 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean physical function in the control groups was 0.77	The mean physical function in the intervention groups was 0.17 lower (0.37 lower to 0.03 higher)
Physical function final values (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome,) at >3 months	114 (1 study) 28 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean physical function in the control groups was 0.7	The mean physical function in the intervention groups was 0.17 lower (0.4 lower to 0.06 higher)
Psychological distress (HAD-D, % improvement) at ≤3 months	212 (1 study) 8 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ MODERATE <sup>2</sup> due to imprecision		The mean % improvement in psychological distress in the control groups was 5.04	The mean % improvement in psychological distress in the intervention groups was 5.32 higher (1.77 to 8.87 higher)
Psychological distress final values (Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale [AIMS] depression component, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	122 (1 study) 4 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean psychological distress in the control groups was 2.97	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.12 lower (0.82 lower to 0.58 higher)
Psychological distress final values (Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale depression component [AIMS], 0-10, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	114 (1 study) 28 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean psychological distress in the control groups was 2.57	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.16 lower (0.89 lower to 0.57 higher)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (due to drowsiness, palpitations, insomnia, panic attack)	332 (1 study) 8 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias	OR 7.72 (1.9 to 31.31)	0 events in the control arm	50 more per 1000 (from 10 more to 80 more)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Tricyclics versus placebo (95% CI)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≥3 months (reasons not specified, no serious adverse events reported)	319 (2 studies) 12-16 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision	RR 2.68 (0.72 to 9.93)	28 per 1000	47 more per 1000 (from 8 fewer to 250 more)
Sleep disturbance (Bisprectal index scale, % improvement) at ≤3 months	212 (1 study) 8 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH		The mean % improvement in sleep disturbance in the control groups was 6.02	The mean % improvement in sleep disturbance in the intervention groups was 28.87 higher (23.87 to 33.87 higher)
<p><sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Downgraded by 1 or 2 increments for heterogeneity, unexplained by subgroup analysis</p>					

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**Table 8: Clinical evidence summary: Tetracyclic antidepressants versus placebo**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Tetracyclic antidepressant versus placebo (95% CI)
Number of responders (VAS total score, VAS 24h morning recall, 30% improvement) at >3 months	40 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision	RR 1.54 (0.72 to 3.28)	385 per 1000	208 more per 1000 (from 108 fewer to 878 more)
Quality of life (SF-36 physical functioning subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome, final values) at >3 months	32 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of		The mean quality of life in the control group was 58	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 20.35 higher (2.09 to 38.61 higher)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Tetracyclic antidepressant versus placebo (95% CI)
		bias, imprecision			
Quality of life (SF-36 physical role limitations subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome , final values) at >3 months	32 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control group was 57	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 7 higher (114.81 lower to 128.81 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 bodily pain subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome outcome , final values) at >3 months	32 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control group was 49	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 8.5 higher (41.58 lower to 58.58 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 general health perceptions subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome outcome , final values) at >3 months	32 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control group was 47	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 9 higher (41.23 lower to 59.23 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 vitality subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome outcome , final values e) at >3 months	32 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control group was 59	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 6 higher (30.8 lower to 42.8 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 social functioning subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome outcome , final values) at >3 months	32 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control group was 53	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 3 lower (27.51 lower to 21.51 higher)
Quality of life (SF-36 mental health subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome outcome , final values) at >3 months	32 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of		The mean quality of life in the control group was 72	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 9 higher (23.77 lower to 41.77 higher)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Tetracyclic antidepressant versus placebo (95% CI)
		bias, imprecision			
Quality of life (SF-36 emotional role limitations subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome , final values) at >3 months	32 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control group was 64	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 17.95 higher (83.79 lower to 119.69 higher)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at >3 months	32 (1 study) 13 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW <sup>2</sup> due to imprecision	RR 0.81 (0.15 to 4.28)	148 per 1000	28 fewer per 1000 (from 112 fewer to 219 more)

1 Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias  
2 Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.  
Note: the study informing these outcomes reported means and SEM. This was assumed to be standard error and has been converted to standard deviation in this analysis. However, confidence intervals are very wide. Reasons for this are unclear but this could be a result of incorrect analysis within the study. The study was therefore downgraded for outcome reporting bias within the risk of bias assessment.

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**Table 9: Clinical evidence summary: Benzodiazepines versus placebo**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Benzodiazepines versus placebo (95% CI)
Pain reduction final values and change scores (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	74 (3 studies) 4-9 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean pain in the control groups was 3.41	The mean pain in the intervention groups was 0.38 lower (0.82 lower to 0.06 higher)



Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Benzodiazepines versus placebo (95% CI)
Physical function (HAQ disability index, 0-3 high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months	31 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean change in physical function in the control groups was -0.2	The mean change in physical function in the intervention groups was 0.1 higher (0.03 to 0.17 higher)
Psychological distress (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months	31 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean change in psychological distress in the control groups was -2.2	The mean change in psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.2 higher (0.01 lower to 0.41 higher)
Psychological distress (BDI, depression adjective checklist, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months	43 (2 studies) 4-9 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		-	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.51 lower standard deviations lower (1.12 lower to 0.11 higher)

<sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias  
<sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

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2 **Table 10: Clinical evidence summary: NSAIDs versus placebo**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with NSAIDs versus placebo (95% CI)
Pain reduction at ≤3 months (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome, change scores and final values)	55 (2 studies) 4-6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in pain in the control groups was 2.32	The mean pain in the intervention groups was 0.28 lower (0.66 lower to 0.1 higher)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with NSAIDs versus placebo (95% CI)
Number of responders (Brief pain inventory, decrease of >30%) at ≤3 months	64 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision	RR 1 (0.46 to 2.19)	281 per 1000	0 fewer per 1000 (from 220 fewer to 220 more)
Quality of life at ≤3 months (SF-36 mental component, 0-100, high is good outcome, final values)	64 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control groups was 48.4	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 1.9 lower (11.71 lower to 7.91 higher)
Quality of life at ≤3 months (SF-36 physical component, 0-100, high is good outcome, final values)	64 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control groups was 35.6	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 0.4 lower (9.19 lower to 8.39 higher)
Physical function at ≤3 months (HAQ disability index, 0-3 high is poor outcome, change scores)	31 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in physical function in the control groups was -0.2	The mean change in physical function in the intervention groups was 0.1 higher (0.03 to 0.17 higher)
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome, change scores)	31 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE <sup>1</sup> due to risk of bias		The mean change in psychological distress in the control groups was -2.2	The mean change in psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.6 lower (0.81 to 0.39 lower)
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (HAM-D, depression adjective checklist, high is poor outcome, final values)	88 (2 studies) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		-	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.09 standard deviations lower (0.51 lower to 0.33 higher)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with NSAIDs versus placebo (95% CI)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (reasons not specified, no serious adverse events)	64 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision	OR 7.63 (0.47 to 124.75)	0 per 1000	6 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 16 more)
<sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias <sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.					

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2 **Table 11: Clinical evidence summary: Cannabinoids versus placebo**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with Cannabinoids versus placebo (95% CI)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (dizziness, disorientation, nausea, poor coordination, headache, drowsiness and fatigue )	40 (1 study) <sup>3</sup> 4 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision	RR 3 (0.34 to 26.45)	50 per 1000	100 more per 1000 (from 33 fewer to 1000 more)
<sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias <sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs. <sup>3</sup> Study also reported quality of life and pain reduction outcomes but these were reported in insufficient detail for quality assessment or inclusion in the analysis. See clinical evidence tables for further details.					

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4 **Table 12: Clinical evidence summary: Local anaesthetics versus placebo**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with local anaesthetics versus placebo (95% CI)
Pain reduction change scores (VAS score 0-10, high is poor outcomes) at ≤3 months	58 (1 study) 12 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean pain change score in the control groups was -4.57	The mean pain in the intervention groups was 1.47 higher (1.82 lower to 4.75 higher)
Number of responders (100mm VAS score, 30% reduction) at ≤3 months	61 (1 study) 7 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision	RR 0.88 (0.44 to 1.76)	367 per 1000	44 fewer per 1000 (from 206 fewer to 279 more)
Psychological distress (Beck depression inventory 0-63, change score; high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	59 (1 study) 12 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean change in psychological distress in the control groups was -1.92	The mean change in psychological distress in the intervention groups was 1.06 higher (-1.85 lower to 3.97 higher)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at <3 months (reasons not stated)	66 (1 study) 4 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision	RR 1 (0.07 to 15.33)		0 more per 1000 (from 8 fewer to 8 more)
<p>1Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias</p> <p>2Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.</p>					

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**Table 13: Clinical evidence summary: NSAIDs versus benzodiazepines**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with NSAIDs versus benzodiazepines (95% CI)
Pain reduction (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome, change scores and final values) at ≤3 months	57 (2 studies) 4-6 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean pain in the control groups was 3.95	The mean pain in the intervention groups was 0.13 higher (0.33 lower to 0.6 higher)
Physical function change scores (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	34 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean change in physical function in the control groups was -0.1	The mean change in physical function in the intervention groups was 0 higher (0.07 lower to 0.07 higher)
Psychological distress change scores (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	34 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊕⊖⊖ LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean change in psychological distress in the control groups was -2	The mean change in psychological distress in the intervention groups was 0.8 lower (1 to 0.6 lower)
Psychological distress final values (HAM-D, 0-21, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	23 (1 study) 6 weeks	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean psychological in the control groups was 5.4	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 1 higher (2.26 lower to 4.26 higher)
<p><sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.</p>					

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1 **Table 14: Clinical evidence summary: SNRIs versus anti-epileptics**

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with SNRIs versus anti-epileptics (95% CI)
Pain reduction at <3 months (Widespread Pain Index, 0-19, final value, high is poor outcome)	66 (1 study) 4 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean pain reduction in the control groups was 6.32	The mean pain in the intervention groups was 2.63 lower (4.60 to 0.66 lower)
Quality of life at <3 months (SF-12 Physical component, 0-100, final value, high is good outcome)	66 (1 study) 4 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control groups was 47.98	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 6.98 higher (3.15 lower to 17.11 higher)
Quality of life at <3 months (SF-12 Mental component, 0-100, final value, high is good outcome)	65 (1 study) 4 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean quality of life in the control groups was 56.53	The mean quality of life in the intervention groups was 7.44 higher (3.36 lower to 18.24 higher) <sup>3</sup>
Psychological distress at <3 months (Beck Depression Inventory-II, 0-63, final value, high is poor outcome)	66 (1 study) 4 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>2</sup> due to risk of bias, imprecision		The mean psychological distress in the control groups was 13.48	The mean psychological distress in the intervention groups was 1.83 lower (6.38 lower to 2.72 higher)
Discontinuation due to adverse events at <3 months	99 (1 study) 4 weeks	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW <sup>1,2,4</sup> due to risk of bias, indirectness, imprecision	RR 2.03 (1.02 to 4.04)	205 per 1000	212 more per 1000 (from 14 more to 440 more)

Outcomes	No of Participants (studies) Follow up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with Control	Risk difference with SNRIs versus anti-epileptics (95% CI)
1 Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias 2 Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs. 3 Significant difference in outcome at baseline may affect final values and between-group effect direction. Baselines, mean (SD): SNRI group 56.69 (24.33), anti-epileptics group 45.77 (27.31) 4 Downgraded for outcome indirectness					

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3 See appendix F for full GRADE tables.

## 1.5 Economic evidence

### 1.5.1 Included studies

3 No relevant health economic studies were identified for this question.

### 1.5.2 Excluded studies

5 Two economic studies that were relevant to this question were excluded due to  
6 methodological limitations.

7 See also the health economic study selection flow chart in appendix G.

### 1.5.3 Unit costs

9 Below is an illustration of the costs of different types of drugs identified in the review, with  
10 doses being taken from typical doses in the included studies and discussion with the  
11 committee.

12 **Table 15: UK costs of drugs for managing chronic pain**

Drug class	Drug	Daily dose	Cost	Cost/month	Cost/year
<b>Antidepressants</b>					
SSRI	Fluoxetine	40mg	20mg capsules 30 capsules per pack £1.15	£2.33	£27.98
SNRI	Duloxetine	60mg	60mg capsules 28 capsules per pack £2.39	£2.60	£31.16
	Venlafaxine	150mg	75mg tablets 56 tablets per pack £3.58	£3.89	£46.67
Tricyclic	Amitriptyline	50mg	25mg tablets 28 tablets per pack £0.87	£1.89	£22.68
<b>Antiepileptics</b>					
	Gabapentin	1800mg	600mg tablets 100 tablets per pack £7.11	£6.49	£77.85
	Pregabalin	600mg	200mg capsules 84 capsules per pack £5.22	£5.67	£68.05
<b>Benzodiazepines</b>					
	Diazepam	5mg	5mg tablets 28 tablets per pack £0.76	£0.83	£9.91
<b>Cannabinoid</b>					



Drug class	Drug	Daily dose	Cost	Cost/month	Cost/year
	Nabilone	2mg	1mg capsule 20 capsules per pack £196	£596.17	£7,154
<b>Local anaesthetics</b>					
	Topical lidocaine	2mg (a)	40mg/g 30g tube £14.90	£30.21	£362.57
	700mg Lidocaine plasters	2 plasters per day	50mg/g 30 plasters per pack £72.40	£146.81	£1,761.73
<b>NSAIDs</b>					
	Ibuprofen	1600mg	400mg tablets 24 tablets per pack £1.04	£5.27	£63.27

Source: BNF, November 2019<sup>295</sup>

(a) In order to assume that roughly two tubes a month are needed.

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## 1.6 Evidence statements

### 1.6.1 Clinical evidence statements

#### 1.6.1.1 Anti-epileptics versus placebo

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##### 8 Pain reduction

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10 Low quality evidence from 4 studies with a total of 508 participants showed no clinically  
11 important difference between gabapentinoids and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Very low quality  
12 evidence from 1 study with a total of 44 participants showed a clinically important benefit of  
13 gabapentinoids compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Low quality evidence from 2 studies with  
14 a total of 59 participants showed a clinically important benefit of gabapentinoids compared to  
15 placebo at  $> 3$  months (chronic pelvic pain subgroup). High quality evidence from 1 study with  
16 1902 participants showed no clinically important difference between gabapentinoids and  
17 placebo at  $> 3$  months (fibromyalgia subgroup).

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##### 19 Quality of life

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21 Moderate to high quality evidence from 1 study with a total of 317 participants showed no  
22 clinically important difference between gabapentinoids and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Low  
23 quality evidence from 1 study with a total of 119 participants showed a clinically important  
24 benefit of gabapentinoids compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. High quality evidence from 1  
25 study with 1898 participants showed no clinically important difference between  
26 gabapentinoids and placebo at  $> 3$  months.

27

##### 28 Physical function

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30 Low to moderate quality evidence from 1 study with 25 participants showed no clinically  
31 important difference between gabapentinoids and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months or  $> 3$  months.

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##### 33 Psychological distress

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1 Very low to low quality evidence from 1 study with 25 participants showed no clinically  
2 important difference between gabapentinoids and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months or  $> 3$  months. High  
3 quality evidence from 1 study with 313 participants showed no clinically important difference  
4 between gabapentinoids and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

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#### 6 **Discontinuation due to adverse events**

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8 Low to moderate quality evidence from 3 studies with 226 participants showed clinically  
9 important harm of gabapentinoids compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months and at  $> 3$  months.

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#### 11 **Sleep**

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13 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 119 participants showed a clinically important benefit  
14 of gabapentinoids compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

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### 1.6.12 **SSRIs versus placebo**

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#### 18 **Pain reduction**

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20 Very low quality evidence from 3 studies with 150 participants showed a clinically important  
21 benefit of SSRIs compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 2  
22 studies with 65 participants showed a clinically important benefit of SSRIs compared to  
23 placebo at  $> 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 46 participants showed no  
24 clinically important difference between SSRIs and placebo at  $> 3$  months.

25

#### 26 **Quality of life**

27

28 Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 51 participants showed a clinically important  
29 benefit of SSRIs compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

30

#### 31 **Physical function**

32

33 Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 51 participants showed no clinically important  
34 difference between SSRIs and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 2  
35 studies with 66 participants showed no clinically important difference between SSRIs and  
36 placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

37

#### 38 **Psychological distress**

39

40 Very low quality evidence from 3 studies with 107 participants showed no clinically important  
41 difference between SSRIs and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 1 study  
42 with 65 participants showed no clinically important difference between SSRIs and placebo at  
43  $\leq 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 46 participants showed a clinically  
44 important benefit of SSRIs compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months.

45

#### 46 **Discontinuation due to adverse events**

47

48 Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 24 participants showed a clinically important  
49 benefit of SSRIs compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Low quality evidence from 1 study with  
50 14 participants showed a clinically important benefit of SSRIs compared to placebo at  $> 3$   
51 months.

52

#### 53 **Sleep**

54

1 Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 24 participants showed no clinically important  
2 difference between SSRIs and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

### 1.6.1.3 SNRIs versus placebo

#### 4 5 **Pain reduction**

6  
7 Moderate quality evidence from 6 studies with 2194 participants showed no clinically  
8 important difference between SNRIs and placebo at  $> 3$  months.

#### 9 10 **Quality of life**

11  
12 Very low quality evidence from 3 studies with 1112 participants showed a clinically important  
13 benefit of SNRIs compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Low quality evidence from the same 3  
14 studies showed no clinically important difference between SNRIs and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.  
15 Moderate quality evidence from 1 study with 386 participants showed a clinically important  
16 benefit of SNRIs compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 1 study  
17 with 520 participants showed no clinically important difference between SNRIs and placebo  
18 at  $> 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 347 participants showed a  
19 clinically important benefit of SNRIs compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months.

#### 20 21 **Physical function**

22  
23 Low quality evidence from 3 studies with 1231 participants showed no clinically important  
24 difference between SNRIs and placebo at  $> 3$  months.

#### 25 26 **Psychological distress**

27  
28 Very low quality evidence from 5 studies with 1731 participants showed a clinically important  
29 benefit of SNRIs compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months.

#### 30 31 **Discontinuation due to adverse events**

32  
33 Low quality evidence from 6 studies with 2367 participants demonstrated that more people  
34 discontinued from SNRIs compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months.

#### 35 36 **Sleep**

37  
38 Very low quality evidence from 2 studies with 734 participants showed a clinically important  
39 benefit of SNRIs compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months.

### 1.6.1.4 Tricyclics versus placebo

#### 40 41 **Pain reduction**

42  
43 Very low quality evidence from 3 studies with 371 participants showed a clinically important  
44 benefit of tricyclics compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Moderate quality evidence from 1  
45 study with 131 participants showed no clinically important difference between tricyclics and  
46 placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Low quality evidence from 1 study with 48 participants showed a  
47 clinically important benefit of tricyclics compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months. Very low quality  
48 evidence from 1 study with 114 participants showed no clinically important difference  
49 between tricyclics and placebo at  $> 3$  months. Moderate quality evidence from 1 study with  
50 106 participants showed a clinically important benefit of tricyclics compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$   
51 months.

#### 52 53 **Quality of life**

54

1 Moderate quality evidence from 1 study with 106 participants showed a clinically important  
2 benefit of tricyclics compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

3

4

#### **Physical function**

5

6 High quality evidence from 1 study with 212 participants showed a clinically important benefit  
7 of tricyclics compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 1 study with  
8 122 participants showed no clinically important difference between tricyclics and placebo at  
9  $\leq 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 114 participants showed no clinically  
10 important difference between tricyclics and placebo at  $> 3$  months.

11

12

#### **Psychological distress**

13

14 Moderate quality evidence from 1 study with 212 participants showed no clinically important  
15 difference between tricyclics and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Low quality evidence from 1 study  
16 with 122 participants showed no clinically important difference between tricyclics and placebo  
17 at  $\leq 3$  months. Low quality evidence from 1 study with 114 participants showed a clinically  
18 important benefit of tricyclics compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months.

19

20

#### **Discontinuation due to adverse events**

21

22 Moderate quality evidence from 1 study with 332 participants demonstrated that more people  
23 discontinued from tricyclics compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Low quality evidence from 2  
24 studies with 319 participants demonstrated that more people discontinued from tricyclics  
25 compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months.

26

27

#### **Sleep**

28 High quality evidence from 1 study with 212 participants showed a clinically important benefit  
29 of tricyclics compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

### **1.6.15 Tetracyclic antidepressants versus placebo**

31

#### **Pain reduction**

32

33 Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 40 participants showed a clinically important  
34 benefit of Tetracyclic antidepressants compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months.

35

36

#### **Quality of life**

37

38 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 32 participants showed a clinically important benefit  
39 of tetracyclic antidepressants compared to placebo at  $> 3$  months

40

41

#### **Physical function**

42

43 No evidence identified.

44

45

#### **Psychological distress**

46

47 No evidence identified.

48

49

#### **Discontinuation due to adverse events**

50

51 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 31 participants showed no clinically important  
52 difference between tetracyclic antidepressants and placebo at  $> 3$  months.

53

54

#### **Sleep**

1  
2 No evidence identified.

### 1.6.1.6 Benzodiazepines versus placebo

4  
5 **Pain reduction**

6  
7 Moderate quality evidence from 3 studies with 74 participants showed no clinically important  
8 difference between benzodiazepines and placebo at ≤3 months.

9  
10 **Quality of life**

11  
12 No evidence identified.

13  
14 **Physical function**

15  
16 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 31 participants showed clinically important harm of  
17 benzodiazepines compared to placebo at ≤3 months.

18  
19 **Psychological distress**

20  
21 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 31 participants showed no clinically important  
22 difference between benzodiazepines and placebo at ≤3 months. Low quality evidence from 2  
23 studies with 43 participants showed a clinically important benefit of benzodiazepines  
24 compared to placebo at ≤3 months

25  
26 **Discontinuation due to adverse events**

27  
28 No evidence identified.

29  
30 **Sleep**

31  
32 No evidence identified.

### 1.6.1.7 NSAIDs versus placebo

34 **Pain reduction**

35  
36 Moderate quality evidence from 2 studies with 55 participants showed no clinically important  
37 difference between NSAIDs and placebo at ≤3 months. Low quality evidence from 1 study  
38 with 64 participants showed no clinically important difference between NSAIDs and placebo  
39 at ≤3 months.

40  
41 **Quality of life**

42  
43 Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 64 participants showed no clinically important  
44 difference between NSAIDs and placebo at ≤3 months.

45  
46 **Physical function**

47  
48 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 31 participants showed clinically important harm of  
49 NSAIDs compared to placebo at ≤3 months.

50  
51 **Psychological distress**

52

1 Moderate quality evidence from 1 study with 31 participants showed no clinically important  
2 difference between NSAIDs and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Low quality evidence from 2 studies  
3 with 88 participants showed no clinically important difference between NSAIDs and placebo  
4 at  $\leq 3$  months.

5

6 **Discontinuation due to adverse events**

7

8 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 64 participants showed no clinically important  
9 difference between NSAIDs and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

10

11 **Sleep**

12

13 No evidence identified.

**1.6.18 Cannabinoids versus placebo**

15

16 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 40 participants demonstrated that more people  
17 discontinued from cannabinoids compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

18

No other evidence identified.

**1.6.19 Local anaesthetics versus placebo**

20

**Pain reduction**

21

22 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 58 participants showed clinically important harm of  
23 local anaesthetics compared to placebo at  $\leq 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 1  
24 study with 61 participants showed no clinically important difference between local  
25 anaesthetics and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

26

27 **Quality of life**

28

29 No evidence identified.

30

31 **Physical function**

32

33 No evidence identified.

34

35 **Psychological distress**

36

37 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 59 participants showed no clinically important  
38 difference between local anaesthetics and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

39

40 **Discontinuation due to adverse events**

41

42 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 66 participants showed no clinically important  
43 difference between local anaesthetics and placebo at  $\leq 3$  months.

44

45 **Sleep**

46

47 No evidence identified.

**1.6.20 NSAIDs versus benzodiazepines**

49

**Pain reduction**

50

51 Low quality evidence from 1 study with 57 participants showed no clinically important  
52 difference between NSAIDs and benzodiazepines at  $\leq 3$  months.

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24

**Quality of life**

No evidence identified.

**Physical function**

Low quality evidence from 1 study with 34 participants showed no clinically important difference between NSAIDs and benzodiazepines at  $\leq 3$  months.

**Psychological distress**

Low quality evidence from 1 study with 34 participants showed no clinically important difference between NSAIDs and benzodiazepines at  $\leq 3$  months. Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 23 participants showed no clinically important difference between NSAIDs and benzodiazepines at  $\leq 3$  months.

**Discontinuation due to adverse events**

No evidence identified.

**Sleep**

No evidence identified.

**1.6.2.1 SNRIs versus anti-epileptics**

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**Pain reduction**

Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 66 participants showed a clinically important benefit of SNRIs compared to gabapentinoids at  $\leq 3$  months.

**Quality of life**

Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 66 participants showed no clinically important difference between SNRIs and gabapentinoids at  $\leq 3$  months.

**Physical function**

No evidence identified.

**Psychological distress**

Very low quality evidence from 1 study with 66 participants showed no clinically important difference between SNRIs and gabapentinoids at  $\leq 3$  months.

**Discontinuation due to adverse events**

No evidence identified.

**Sleep**

No evidence identified.

**1.6.2 Health economic evidence statements**

- No relevant economic evaluations were identified.

## 2 Long term safety of opioids for chronic pain

### 2.1 Review question: What is the long-term safety of opioids for the management of chronic pain?

#### 2.2 Introduction

Opioids are some of the oldest medicines used today. Their use in acute pain following surgery or trauma and for pain relief at the end of life is well accepted. By contrast their use for long-term chronic pain is relatively recent and much more controversial. Despite this, there has been a huge increase in opioid prescribing in many Western countries over the last decade. The public health crisis of misuse of prescription opioids in North America has led to a focus on the clinical use of these medicines, in particular their use over prolonged periods for chronic pain.

Many people stop taking opioids relatively soon after initiation either because they do not provide sufficient pain relief or cause intolerable side effects. There are concerns regarding dependence and misuse when a person is taking opioids for a long time. However, there are a range of other serious harms and problems, including cognitive impairment, falls and fracture, sexual dysfunction, endocrine changes, immune dysfunction, depression, sleep apnoea, and heart attacks, that have been suggested to be associated with opioid use.

Between 2000 and 2014 the average length of continuous opioid prescription in the UK increased from 64 days to 102 days. As people are taking opioids for longer periods of time there is a need to understand more about the long-term harms associated with opioids. This evidence review will increase understanding of the long-term safety of opioid medicines and associated harms. It will also allow healthcare professionals and people taking opioids to have an informed discussion about long-term safety and harms with opioid medicines.

#### 2.3 PICO table

For full details see the review protocol in appendix A.

**Table 16: PICO characteristics of review question**

<b>Population</b>	People, aged 16 years and over, with chronic pain (whose pain management is not addressed by existing NICE guidance). <i>Pain that persists or recurs for longer than 3 months.</i>
<b>Intervention(s)</b>	Oral or transdermal opioids (morphine, oxycodone, hydromorphone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, methadone, meptazinol, tapentadol, targinact, codeine, dihydrocodeine, tramadol, cocodamol, codydramol, pethidine) prescribed for chronic pain management for $\geq 6$ months.
<b>Comparison(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Placebo</li><li>• no treatment/usual care</li><li>• non-comparative data</li></ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	Serious adverse events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cognitive impairment</li><li>• fractures and falls</li><li>• sexual dysfunction/endocrine impairment</li><li>• immune dysfunction</li><li>• sleep apnoea</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cardiovascular events</li><li>• all-cause mortality</li><li>• self-harm/suicide</li><li>• dependence</li><li>• depressive symptoms/mood disturbances.</li></ul> <p>Outcomes will be extracted at the longest time point up to 6 months, at the longest time point up to 1 year and at the longest time point after 1 year.</p>
<b>Study design</b>	Systematic reviews Randomised controlled trials Observational studies (including cohorts, case series and case-control if no cohorts or case series are identified). Initially limited to n>5000 people receiving the intervention. If insufficient evidence identified, sample size threshold will be lowered to n>1000 for comparative data.

1 When agreeing the protocol, the committee agreed that although these recommendations  
2 would be for people with chronic primary pain, the evidence base specifically for harms in  
3 this population was likely to be small to inform recommendations. The search was therefore  
4 covering all types of chronic pain so that evidence could be extrapolated as there was no  
5 reason to expect that harms would differ according to type of chronic pain.

## 2.4 Clinical evidence

### 2.4.1 Included studies

8 No randomised controlled trial evidence comparing opioids with placebo, no treatment or  
9 usual care for six months or longer was identified.

10 Three observational studies reporting non-comparative data were included in the review;<sup>188,</sup>  
11 <sup>189, 483</sup> these are summarised in Table 17 below. Quality assessment of these studies is  
12 summarised in the study limitations table below (Table 18).

13 An overview of Cochrane reviews on adverse events associated with medium- and long-term  
14 use of opioids for chronic non-cancer pain<sup>195</sup> was assessed for eligibility. This was excluded  
15 from the review as long-term opioid use was defined as two months or longer. The individual  
16 Cochrane reviews included in the overview were also screened for eligibility, but none were  
17 included in this review.

18 See also the study selection flow chart in appendix C and study evidence tables in  
19 appendix D.

### 2.4.2 Excluded studies

21 See the excluded studies list in appendix I.

22

23

## 2.4.3 Summary of clinical studies included in the evidence review

2 **Table 17: Summary of studies included in the evidence review**

Study	Data source	Intervention and comparison	Population	Outcomes	Comments
Edlund 2007 <sup>189</sup>  Retrospective cohort study  USA	South Central Veterans Affairs Health Care Network data warehouse	Chronic opioid use defined as ≥91 days' supply of prescribed opioid summed over one year (those with ≥151 days' supply were included in this review; n=10,387)  No comparator	N=15,160 veterans with chronic use of opioids for chronic non-cancer pain (majority arthritis and back pain)  Age: <40 years 4.2% 40-49 years 16.1% 50-59 years 35% 60+ years 44.6%	Abuse/dependence (ICD-9-CM codes 304.00-304.03, 304.70-304.73 and 305.50-305.53 within inpatient and outpatient records)  Follow up: 3 years  151-210 days' supply: 43/3275 (1.3%) ≥211 days' supply: 196/7112 (2.8%)	Days' supply of opioids during the year were not necessarily consecutive  1148 out of the total cohort had non-opioid substance abuse/dependence during the year that they were recruited  People with opioid substance abuse disorder at baseline were excluded
Edlund 2010 (the Trends and Risks of Opioid Use for Pain TROUP study) <sup>188</sup>  Retrospective cohort study	Arkansas Medicaid files (serving a disadvantaged and vulnerable population) n=9,651  HealthCore Integrated	Chronic opioid use defined as at least 90 days' continuous use of opioids within a six-month period (those with >185 days' supply were included in this review; n=11,884)  No comparator	N=46,256 enrollees with chronic use of opioids for chronic non-cancer pain (majority back, joint, head and neck pain)  Age: 18-30 years 5.4% 31-40 years 17% 41-50 years 30.7%	Abuse/dependence derived from ICD-9-CM codes  Follow up: 12-54 months (HealthCore the mean of the post-index period was 818 days, and 1212 days in Arkansas Medicaid)  >185 days' supply: 696/11,884 (5.86%)	Data for Arkansas Medicaid files and HealthCore Integrated Research Database are combined  317 out of the total cohort had

Study	Data source	Intervention and comparison	Population	Outcomes	Comments
USA	Research Database (medical and pharmacy administrative claims and health plan eligibility data from five commercial health plans representing the West, Mid-West, and South-East) n=36,605		51-64 years 32.3% ≥65 years 14.6%		pre-index opioid substance abuse diagnosis and 1375 had non-opioid substance abuse diagnosis  Total days' supply exceeding the number of days in the period (183 days) suggested concurrent use of different opioid types
Ray 2016 <sup>483</sup>  Retrospective cohort study  USA	Tennessee Medicaid files	Long-acting opioids (sustained release morphine, controlled release oxycodone, transdermal fentanyl and methadone) for >180 days; n=5584  Vs.  Anticonvulsants indicated for chronic pain (gabapentin, pregabalin, carbamazepine) or low-dose cyclic antidepressants	N=22,912 episodes of opioid therapy with a diagnosis of chronic pain (back, other musculoskeletal, abdominal, headache, other neurologic pain) in the past 90 days (majority back pain and other musculoskeletal pain)  Age 30-74 years Mean (SD) = 47.9 (10.5) years	All-cause mortality  Follow up: patients left the cohort after 1 year without filling prescription, prescription for a different drug class, dying, not meeting inclusion-exclusion criteria or the end of study (14 years)  >180 days: 62/5584 (1.1%)	Patients could re-enter the cohort. 22,912 episodes of therapy: 20,405 unique patients  Data extracted for the opioids arm only, as the other drugs were not listed in the protocol as comparators. Studies comparing opioids to usual care where usual care involved

Study	Data source	Intervention and comparison	Population	Outcomes	Comments
					pharmacological therapy would be considered, but here patients taking anticonvulsants/ cyclic antidepressants were specifically selected as controls.

1 See appendix D for full evidence tables.

## 2.4.4 Quality assessment of clinical studies included in the evidence review

3 Table 18: Study limitations [Institute of Health Economics (IHE). Quality Appraisal of Case Series Studies Checklist]

Study	Study objective	Study design	Study population	Intervention and co-intervention	Outcome measure	Statistical analysis	Results and conclusions	Competing interests and sources of support	Overall <sup>a</sup>
Edlund 2007 <sup>189</sup>	Objective clearly stated	Retrospective cohort <sup>b</sup>  Data collected in >1 centre  Patients meeting the inclusion/exclusion criteria were	Patient characteristics were described  Eligibility criteria were clearly stated  Unclear whether patients entered the	Intervention of interest reported but not clearly described (no description of which opioids were included/ routes of administration etc.)	Relevant outcome measures were established a priori  Unclear whether outcome assessors were blinded	Statistical tests were appropriate for the objectives of the study, but inappropriate for the purpose of this review (>151 days compared	Follow-up was long enough for outcome to occur  Losses to follow up not reported  The conclusions of the study	Sources of support for the study were reported but competing interests were not reported	HIGH

Study	Study objective	Study design	Study population	Intervention and co-intervention	Outcome measure	Statistical analysis	Results and conclusions	Competing interests and sources of support	Overall <sup>a</sup>
		recruited consecutively	study at a similar point in the disease (duration of pain not reported)	Additional interventions were not reported	to the intervention  Relevant outcomes were measured using partially appropriate objective methods	with 91-150 days rather than no opioid use)	were supported by the results but not relevant to this review		
Edlund 2010 <sup>188</sup>	Objective clearly stated	Retrospective cohort <sup>b</sup>  Data collected in >1 centre  Patients meeting the inclusion/exclusion criteria were recruited consecutively	Patient characteristics were described  Eligibility criteria were clearly stated  Unclear whether patients entered the study at a similar point in the disease (duration of pain not reported)	Intervention of interest was clearly described  Additional interventions were not clearly described (use of sedative/hypnotics only)	Relevant outcome measures were established a priori  Unclear whether outcome assessors were blinded to the intervention  Relevant outcomes were measured using	Statistical tests were appropriate for the objectives of the study, but inappropriate for the purpose of this review (>185 days compared with 91-160 days rather than no opioid use)	Follow-up was long enough for outcome to occur  Losses to follow up not reported  The conclusions of the study were supported by the results but not relevant to this review	Competing interests and sources of support were not reported	HIGH

Study	Study objective	Study design	Study population	Intervention and co-intervention	Outcome measure	Statistical analysis	Results and conclusions	Competing interests and sources of support	Overall <sup>a</sup>
					partially appropriate objective methods				
Ray 2016 <sup>483</sup>	Objective clearly stated	Retrospective cohort <sup>b</sup>  Data collected in >1 centre  Patients meeting the inclusion/exclusion criteria were recruited consecutively	Patient characteristics were described  Eligibility criteria were clearly stated but method of assessment inadequate (>90 days prescribed opioid use used to infer chronic pain)  Unclear whether patients entered the study at a similar point in the disease (duration of pain not reported)	Intervention of interest was clearly described  Additional interventions were not reported but patients left the cohort if they were prescribed a drug in a different class	Relevant outcome measures were established a priori  Unclear whether outcome assessors were blinded to the intervention  Relevant outcomes were measured using appropriate objective methods	Statistical tests were appropriate for the objectives of the study, but inappropriate for the purpose of this review (opioids compared with anticonvulsants/cyclic antidepressants rather than no opioid use)	Follow up was long enough for the outcome to occur  Losses to follow up not reported  The conclusions of the study were supported by the results but not relevant to this review	Competing interests and sources of support were reported	HIGH

1 (a) Options for risk of bias are low, moderate or high

- 1 (b) *Data were extracted from a single arm, therefore studies were treated as case series for quality assessment*

## **2.5 Economic evidence**

2 The committee agreed that health economic studies would not be relevant to this review  
3 question, and so were not sought.

4

## **2.6 Evidence statements**

### **2.6.1 Clinical evidence statements**

7 Evidence from three cohort studies reported long-term safety outcomes of opioids for chronic  
8 pain. Non-comparative data showed that the risk of opioid abuse/dependence ranged from  
9 1.3% in those taking opioids for 151-210 days and 5.9% in those taking opioids for more than  
10 185 days. The all-cause mortality risk in those taking opioids for more than 180 days was  
11 1.1%. The evidence was considered to be at high risk of bias. One outcome was considered  
12 to be indirect as it was a composite measure of both abuse and dependence and the review  
13 outcome was dependence.

14 No evidence was identified for the outcomes of cognitive impairment, fractures and falls,  
15 sexual dysfunction/endocrine impairment, immune dysfunction, sleep apnoea, cardiovascular  
16 events, self-harm/suicide or depressive symptoms/mood disturbances.

17

18



## 3 Safety of gabapentinoids

### 3.1 Review question: What is the long-term safety of gabapentinoids for the management of chronic pain?

#### 3.2 Introduction

Gabapentin and pregabalin are medicines that are used to treat epilepsy. The neural mechanisms of epilepsy and nerve damage pain have some commonality so the medicines are also prescribed for the treatment of neuropathic (nerve damage) pain such as pain after shingles, diabetes nerve pain and sciatica. They often considered together as 'gabapentinoids'.

There has been a large increase in prescribing of gabapentinoids in the UK over the last decade. Gabapentinoids affect fundamental neural processes. Central nervous system side effects are to be expected and include drowsiness, dizziness, unsteadiness and weight gain. There have been increasing concerns about the potential for misuse and abuse. Gabapentinoids, especially pregabalin, can produce feelings of relaxation, calmness and euphoria and they can enhance the euphoric effects of other drugs, especially opioids. In the UK, there has also been a large increase in the number of deaths in which use of pregabalin and gabapentin have been recorded on the death certificate. The Home Office has recently reclassified gabapentin and pregabalin as Schedule 3 controlled drugs.

In order to maintain appropriate access for those patients who do obtain substantial pain relief and to minimise misuse and abuse there is a need for a comprehensive understanding of the safety and harms of gabapentinoids. This review considers serious side effects and harms that have been reported with gabapentinoids. This information will allow healthcare professionals and people taking gabapentinoids to have an informed discussion about the long-term safety and harms associated with gabapentinoid medicines.

#### 3.3 PICO table

For full details see the review protocol in appendix A.

**Table 19: PICO characteristics of review question**

<b>Population</b>	People, aged 16 years and over, with chronic pain (whose pain management is not addressed by existing NICE guidance). Pain that persists or recurs for longer than 3 months.
<b>Interventions</b>	Gabapentinoids (gabapentin, pregabalin) prescribed for pain management.
<b>Comparisons</b>	Comparators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• placebo</li><li>• each other</li><li>• non-comparative data</li></ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• serious adverse events:</li><li>• cognitive impairment</li><li>• gait disturbance/ataxia</li><li>• loss of balance</li><li>• all-cause mortality</li><li>• dependence</li><li>• weight gain</li><li>• rash</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• peripheral oedema</li><li>• tremor</li><li>• somnolence</li></ul> <p>Outcomes will be extracted at the longest time point up to 6 months, at the longest time point up to 1 year and at the longest time point after 1 year</p>
<b>Study design</b>	Systematic reviews Randomised controlled trials Observational studies

- 1 When agreeing the protocol, the committee agreed that although these recommendations
- 2 would be for people with chronic primary pain, the evidence base specifically for harms in
- 3 this population was likely to be small to inform recommendations. The search was therefore
- 4 covering all types of chronic pain so that evidence could be extrapolated as there was no
- 5 reason to expect that harms would differ according to type of chronic pain.

## **3.4 Clinical evidence**

### **3.4.1 Included studies**

- 8 No relevant clinical studies were identified.
- 9 See also the study selection flow chart in appendix C.

### **3.4.2 Excluded studies**

- 11 See the excluded studies list in appendix I.
- 12
- 13

**3.4.3 Summary of clinical studies included in the evidence review**

2 No evidence identified.

**3.4.4 Quality assessment of clinical studies included in the evidence review**

4 No evidence identified.

5

6

### **3.5 Economic evidence**

2 The committee agreed that health economic studies would not be relevant to this review  
3 question, and so were not sought.

### **3.6 Evidence statements**

#### **3.6.1 Clinical evidence statements**

6  
7 No relevant published evidence was identified.

8

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## 4 The committee's discussion of the evidence

### 4.1 Interpreting the evidence

#### 4.1.1 The outcomes that matter most

##### 5 *Effectiveness of pharmacological treatments*

6 The committee considered pain reduction, quality of life, physical function, psychological  
7 distress and discontinuation due to adverse events to be critical outcomes for decision-  
8 making. Sleep and use of healthcare services were also considered important outcomes for  
9 decision-making. The critical and important outcomes agreed by the committee were  
10 adapted by consensus from relevant core outcome sets registered under the Core Outcome  
11 Measures in Effectiveness Trials (COMET) Initiative. This included the Initiative on Methods,  
12 Measurement, and Pain Assessment in Clinical Trials (IMMPACT) recommendations.

13 The included studies rarely reported sleep and use of healthcare services as outcomes but  
14 frequently reported all of the critical outcomes identified within this protocol.

15 For some of the interventions specified in the protocol, no relevant evidence for any of the  
16 outcomes was identified, including: paracetamol, steroids, an anaesthetics/steroid  
17 combination, opioids, ketamine and anti-psychotics.

##### 18 *Safety of long-term use of opioids and gabapentinoids*

19 The evidence on adverse events associated with long-term opioid and gabapentinoid use for  
20 chronic pain was reviewed. Although recommendations were being made for people with  
21 chronic primary pain, the committee agreed that safety aspects would apply equally to all  
22 types of chronic pain and evidence could be extrapolated from the broader population where  
23 it was likely more data would be available.

24 Cognitive impairment, fractures and falls, sexual dysfunction/endocrine impairment, immune  
25 dysfunction, sleep apnoea, cardiovascular events, all-cause mortality, self-harm/suicide,  
26 dependence and depressive symptoms/mood disturbances were all identified by the  
27 committee as critical outcomes for decision making in the opioid review.

28 Cognitive impairment, gait disturbance/ataxia, loss of balance, all-cause mortality,  
29 dependence, weight gain, rash, peripheral oedema, tremor and somnolence were all  
30 identified by the committee as critical outcomes for decision making in the gabapentinoid  
31 review.

32 Other less serious side effects such as nausea and constipation were not included in the  
33 review as they tend to occur soon after initiating therapy and if not tolerable, would be more  
34 likely to cause discontinuation before six months.

35 No evidence was identified for cognitive impairment, fractures and falls, sexual  
36 dysfunction/endocrine impairment, immune dysfunction, sleep apnoea, cardiovascular  
37 events, self-harm/suicide, or depressive symptoms/mood disturbances in relation to opioids.

1 No evidence was identified for any long-term safety outcomes for gabapentinoids in the  
2 chronic pain population.

#### 4.1.2 The quality of the evidence

##### 4 *Effectiveness of pharmacological treatments*

5 The quality of the evidence for this review varied considerably between interventions. The  
6 majority of the evidence was very low or low quality, mainly due to risk of bias and  
7 imprecision. The majority of studies included within this review had a large dropout rate,  
8 resulting in a high risk of attrition bias. The majority of the evidence compared medications to  
9 placebo and there were few head-to-head drug trials. This applied to all comparisons  
10 throughout the review.

11 There was more evidence available to inform discussion of the use of antidepressants.  
12 Evidence was identified for all critical and important outcomes, although the evidence for  
13 SSRIs and SNRIs was generally of low to very low quality due to risk of bias, imprecision and  
14 inconsistency (SNRIs only). There was some slightly higher quality evidence for tricyclic  
15 antidepressants, with most outcomes ranging from moderate to low quality due to risk of  
16 bias, imprecision and inconsistency.

17 Evidence to inform committee discussion on the use of cannabinoids in people with chronic  
18 primary pain was of very low quality due to risk of bias and imprecision, based on one small  
19 study (40 participants) and was therefore considered insufficient evidence to inform a  
20 recommendation for or against the use of cannabinoids in this population. The committee  
21 agreed that there may be value of further research to help inform an update of the guideline.

22 There was some evidence available for other interventions suggesting a lack of benefit for  
23 anti-epileptics (specifically gabapentinoids), local anaesthetics, benzodiazepines and  
24 NSAIDs compared to placebo for chronic primary pain, although the evidence base was  
25 limited. For anti-epileptics there was evidence for all outcomes other than use of healthcare  
26 services and the quality varied from high to very low quality due to risk of bias and  
27 imprecision, however it was noted that the only evidence identified was for gabapentinoids  
28 and not for any other anti-epileptics. There was a smaller amount of evidence for local  
29 anaesthetics versus placebo, with evidence of low to very low quality due to risk of bias and  
30 imprecision for pain reduction, psychological distress and discontinuation due to adverse  
31 events. The quality of evidence for both NSAIDs and benzodiazepines was similar, with  
32 evidence ranging from moderate to low quality due to risk of bias and imprecision. There was  
33 evidence for all critical and important outcomes for NSAIDs, whereas evidence for  
34 benzodiazepines was limited to pain reduction, physical function and psychological distress.  
35 A head-to-head comparison of NSAIDs versus benzodiazepines included evidence for pain  
36 reduction, physical function and quality of life, most of which were of moderate quality due to  
37 risk of bias.

38 Where evidence were available, it was further discussed that the majority was at short term  
39 follow up only, and so the effectiveness of these medications in the long term was uncertain.  
40 The committee discussed the generalisability of the evidence to all people with chronic  
41 primary pain as the majority of the evidence identified was for women with fibromyalgia.  
42 However, the committee agreed that for most medicines, response to treatment would be  
43 sufficiently similar to allow recommendations to be made across all chronic primary pain

1 conditions, even when evidence was available for only one condition. Where the committee  
2 thought there was reason to distinguish between chronic primary pain conditions, this is  
3 reflected in the recommendations.

#### 4 ***Safety of long-term opioids***

5  
6  
7 Non-comparative data were available from 3 retrospective cohort studies in the wider chronic  
8 pain population. The evidence for long-term safety of opioids was considered to be at high  
9 risk of bias due to insufficient details of the study population, background interventions and  
10 attrition rate. The composite outcome of both abuse and dependence was considered to be  
11 indirect as the review outcome was dependence and it was unclear from this which aspect  
12 was more affected by opioid use. No evidence was identified for opioids compared with  
13 placebo or no treatment/usual care.

#### 14 ***Safety of long-term gabapentinoids***

15  
16  
17 No evidence was identified for any long-term safety outcomes for gabapentinoids.

### 4.1.3 **Benefits and harms**

#### 19 **Effectiveness of pharmacological treatments**

20 The evidence base in general showed limited benefit and some harms associated with  
21 pharmacological treatment of chronic primary pain. The exception was antidepressants, for  
22 which a larger evidence base showed treatment to be beneficial compared to placebo.

#### 23 ***Antidepressants***

24 Evidence showed a benefit of SNRIs, SSRIs and tricyclic antidepressants for chronic primary  
25 pain. A small amount of evidence from 1 study with 32 participants also showed a benefit of  
26 tetracyclic antidepressants compared to placebo (for pain reduction and quality of life).  
27 However, this evidence was low quality and insufficient to inform recommendations.

28 Evidence for SNRIs versus placebo was based on 7 studies comparing duloxetine with  
29 placebo and showed long-term (over 3 months) benefit of duloxetine mainly in terms of  
30 improved quality of life, reduced psychological distress and improved sleep. Evidence  
31 identified no difference in pain or physical function, and a harm due to adverse events  
32 resulting in discontinuation. The majority of the evidence identified for tricyclic  
33 antidepressants compared amitriptyline with placebo. Evidence from 6 studies showed a  
34 benefit of tricyclics for quality of life, pain, sleep and physical function, but no difference for  
35 psychological distress, and harm due to adverse events resulting in discontinuation.  
36 Evidence was mainly available for short-term follow-up (less than 3 months), with limited  
37 evidence available for long-term effectiveness. Evidence comparing SSRIs with placebo was  
38 based on 7 studies and showed a clinically important benefit of SSRIs (fluoxetine,  
39 paroxetine, citalopram and sertraline) for reducing pain and psychological distress, improving  
40 quality of life, and the discontinuation rate due to adverse events was lower compared to  
41 placebo. Evidence showed no difference for physical function or sleep. Similarly to tricyclics,  
42 evidence was SSRIs was mainly limited to short-term follow-up, with limited long-term  
43 evidence available.

1 The committee agreed that the evidence suggested that duloxetine, amitriptyline and SSRIs  
2 (fluoxetine, paroxetine, citalopram and sertraline) could be beneficial for critical outcomes  
3 related to chronic pain, such as quality of life, pain, physical function and psychological  
4 distress. No evidence was identified that compared the different antidepressant classes to  
5 each other and the committee agreed they could not assume one class to be more or less  
6 effective than another. The committee noted that duloxetine had a larger amount of long-term  
7 evidence of effectiveness. However, evidence showed a benefit of amitriptyline and SSRIs  
8 for pain whereas duloxetine did not demonstrate a benefit for pain in the long-term compared  
9 to placebo. The committee agreed that it was not possible to weigh up the benefits of each  
10 antidepressant class without head-to-head comparisons, and they could not recommend one  
11 class over another.

12 The committee also acknowledged that some uncertainty existed across the effect sizes  
13 seen within the evidence, with some confidence intervals crossing the MID thresholds or line  
14 of no effect. However, despite the uncertainty, the committee considered that benefits were  
15 shown across most of the critical outcomes and the evidence base was large enough to  
16 justify a recommendation. The committee therefore agreed to recommend consideration of  
17 these treatments for managing chronic primary pain. The committee agreed that the  
18 decision of which class of antidepressants to try should be based on a fully informed  
19 discussion with the person with chronic primary pain, taking account of the person's  
20 additional symptoms and the side effect profiles of these drugs and that the risk of withdrawal  
21 symptoms should be considered when prescribing these drugs.

22 The committee noted that none of the antidepressants have marketing authorisations for  
23 chronic primary pain, however they noted that there were no licensed alternatives and  
24 agreed that in their experience, these medications were already used in practice. They were  
25 aware of a number of precautions listed in the SPC, as well as the Medicines and Healthcare  
26 products Regulatory Agency safety guidance on SSRIs and SNRIs, including increased risk  
27 of suicide in those with a history of suicide-related events, or those with a significant degree  
28 of suicidal ideation, increased risk of withdrawal reactions and concerns regarding use during  
29 pregnancy. It was agreed that these factors should form part of the decision between risks  
30 and benefits and appropriateness for the individual when considering these drugs.

31 If antidepressants were not effective, it was agreed that in line with safe prescribing practice,  
32 their use should not be continued. A recommendation was included to cross refer to the  
33 NICE guideline for depression in adults for guidance on stopping or reducing  
34 antidepressants.

### 35 ***Cannabis-based medicinal products***

36 Evidence from 1 small study comparing cannabinoids with placebo showed a clinically  
37 important harm of cannabinoids for chronic primary pain in terms of greater discontinuation  
38 due to adverse events. The committee did not consider the evidence sufficient to inform  
39 recommendations, with results for pain reduction and quality of life from the same study  
40 reported insufficiently to be included within the analysis. They agreed that further research on  
41 the clinical effectiveness of cannabinoids for chronic primary pain would be beneficial,  
42 however they were aware of NICE's guideline on cannabis-based medicinal products, which  
43 recommended further research for cannabidiol in people with fibromyalgia and recommended  
44 against the use of nabilone, dronabinol, THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) and a



1 combination of cannabidiol (CBD) with THC. It was decided that this sufficiently covered  
2 guidance and future research for people with chronic primary pain.

3

#### 4 **Opioids**

5 No evidence was identified for the clinical effectiveness of opioids. Evidence from non-  
6 randomised studies on the long-term use (more than 6 months) of opioids for chronic pain  
7 suggested an increased risk of dependence. There were limitations in this evidence, but  
8 there was no evidence from randomised trials on the efficacy of opioids for chronic primary  
9 pain, and it was agreed a priori when setting the protocol that evidence could be extrapolated  
10 from the broader chronic pain population and that non-randomised evidence was the most  
11 likely study design reporting long-term harms. This non-comparative data reported the overall  
12 all-cause mortality risk in people with a wide range of chronic pain conditions taking opioids  
13 for more than 180 days. The committee noted that this study was based on a heterogeneous  
14 population. Without any background/expected mortality data reported they were unable to  
15 draw any meaningful conclusions about long-term opioid safety from this.

16 The long-term risk of opioid abuse/dependence was greater in those taking opioids for more  
17 than 185 days when compared to those taking for 151-210 days. The committee considered  
18 that the reported value was likely to be an underestimate of the true incidence, as  
19 dependence is not often coded as such when it is suspected, and some clinicians only  
20 confirm a diagnosis of dependence in collaboration with the person concerned.

21 Based on their experience, the committee agreed that even short-term use of opioids could  
22 be harmful for a chronic condition. The lack of evidence for effectiveness of opioids, along  
23 with evidence of long-term harm, persuaded the committee to recommend against opioid use  
24 for people with chronic primary pain.

#### 25 **NSAIDs**

26 Evidence showed no difference in pain reduction, quality of life, psychological distress or  
27 discontinuation between NSAIDs and placebo. Evidence from one small study (31  
28 participants) showed that people treated with NSAIDs reported more difficulty in physical  
29 function compared to placebo, consistent with the general trend of a lack of effect of NSAIDs  
30 in chronic primary pain. The committee agreed that the lack of evidence of the effectiveness  
31 of NSAIDs, coupled with evidence of harm, was sufficient to recommend against its use in  
32 clinical practice.

#### 33 **Benzodiazepines**

34 Evidence comparing benzodiazepines with placebo showed a worse outcome in people  
35 receiving benzodiazepines in relation to physical function. The committee considered this  
36 alongside evidence showing no difference in pain reduction or psychological distress, and  
37 the lack of evidence on long-term effectiveness. The committee also considered the addictive  
38 properties of this group of drugs in the long term taken alongside this evidence meant they  
39 recommended against the use of benzodiazepines for chronic primary pain.

#### 40 **Antiepileptics**

1 All evidence identified was comparing gabapentinoids to placebo. 7 studies demonstrated  
2 mainly no clinically important difference between gabapentinoids and placebo for quality of  
3 life, pain reduction, psychological distress and physical function. Furthermore, evidence at  
4 both less than and more than 3 months showed a clinically important harm of gabapentinoids  
5 for discontinuation due to adverse events. No evidence was identified from non-randomised  
6 studies on the long-term safety of gabapentinoids.

7 In the short-term (less than 3 months), gabapentinoids generally showed no benefit in terms  
8 of pain reduction, quality of life, physical function and psychological distress. However, one  
9 outcome showed a benefit of gabapentinoids in the short-term for pain reduction, but this  
10 was very low quality evidence and was based on a much smaller sample size than other  
11 outcomes showing no benefit for pain.

12 Longer-term evidence (over 3 months) also showed no clinically important benefit of  
13 gabapentinoids in terms of pain reduction, quality of life and physical function. No evidence  
14 was available for psychological distress or sleep. For pain reduction, high quality evidence  
15 from 1 study with 1,902 participants showed no benefit of gabapentinoids compared to  
16 placebo (in people with fibromyalgia). Conversely, low quality evidence from 2 studies with a  
17 total of 59 participants showed a benefit of gabapentinoids for chronic pelvic pain. The  
18 committee discussed the possibility that gabapentinoids may be beneficial in some  
19 subgroups of chronic primary pain such as chronic pelvic pain. However, the committee  
20 agreed that the evidence generally showed a similar affect of medicines across chronic  
21 primary pain conditions. In addition they determined that the evidence from this particular  
22 outcome was limited by its very small sample size and low quality.

23 Evidence based on one study also compared gabapentinoids to SNRIs. This evidence was  
24 very low quality, based on a small sample size, and only had a follow up of 4 weeks. This  
25 evidence was therefore not sufficient to make strong conclusions about the effectiveness of  
26 each drug class compared to each other. However, the evidence showed a benefit of SNRIs  
27 for pain reduction and no clinically important difference between the two drugs for quality of  
28 life and psychological distress.

29 The committee agreed that overall, there was insufficient evidence to justify the routine use  
30 of gabapentinoids for chronic primary pain. Furthermore, there was no evidence identified for  
31 any other antiepileptics included in the review protocol. The committee took into account their  
32 own experience of harms related to use of gabapentinoids, along with drug monographs in  
33 the British National Formulary and the summary of product characteristics and the risk of  
34 abuse and dependence highlighted by the MHRA notification of the reclassification of  
35 gabapentinoids as a class C substance controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and  
36 scheduled under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 as schedule 3. They were also  
37 aware of the risks of taking valproate during pregnancy. The committee therefore decided  
38 that the risk of harms alongside the lack of evidence for effectiveness for managing chronic  
39 primary pain were sufficient to recommend against the use of anti-epileptics, including  
40 gabapentinoids for this population. They were aware that gabapentinoids are recommended  
41 for neuropathic pain and expert opinion within the committee suggested that complex  
42 regional pain syndrome (CRPS) may have a neuropathic pain element. Based on the expert  
43 opinion of some members, the committee decided to make a research recommendation for  
44 the use of gabapentinoids for CRPS, a population that was underrepresented in RCTs, to  
45 inform future practice.

1 **Local anaesthetics**

2 Evidence from 2 small studies showed no difference between local anaesthetics and placebo  
3 in psychological distress and discontinuation and harm of local anaesthetics in relation to  
4 pain reduction. Due to the lack of evidence on its effectiveness, the committee decided to  
5 recommend against the use of local anaesthetics. However, the committee noted that  
6 evidence across the guideline for CRPS was limited, and the expert opinion of some  
7 committee members suggested that response to local anaesthetics in this population may  
8 vary due to the neuropathic element of the condition. The committee therefore agreed that an  
9 exception to this recommendation is the use of local anaesthetics in clinical trials for CRPS.

10 **Paracetamol, corticosteroids, local anaesthetics corticosteroid combinations,**  
11 **ketamine and antipsychotics**

12 No evidence was identified for paracetamol, ketamine, corticosteroids, anaesthetic  
13 corticosteroid combinations, or antipsychotics. The committee agreed that not commenting  
14 on these medicines could result in their continued use in practice, which would be  
15 inappropriate given the lack of evidence. From their own experience, and from the  
16 summaries of product characteristics, the committee agreed that these medicines have  
17 possible harms. They agreed that it was important to highlight both the lack of evidence and  
18 possible associated harms, and so recommended against the use of these treatments.

19 **Withdrawing medication**

20 The committee were aware of evidence to suggest that reducing dose or stopping of some  
21 medicines may result in withdrawal symptoms. In light of the 'do not use' recommendations  
22 for a number of medicines, the committee made a recommendation to highlight the need to  
23 be aware of the risk of withdrawal symptoms when stopping medicines (including opioids,  
24 gabapentinoids and benzodiazepines) and also when considering prescribing gabapentinoids  
25 as part of a clinical trial or antidepressants.

## 4.2 **Cost effectiveness and resource use**

27 No relevant economic evidence was included for this question. Two studies were identified  
28 but excluded due to methodological limitations.

29 Unit costs were presented to the committee for consideration, based on the interventions  
30 identified in the clinical review. Unit costs can vary depending on the drug. Examples of  
31 prescribable medications with lower costs include benzodiazepines or some types of  
32 antidepressants. The cost involved to the NHS is not just the cost of the drugs themselves,  
33 but the monitoring involved, as well as the potential for adverse events and even  
34 dependence.

35 Pharmacological management is just one of the many options that can be used in practice to  
36 help patients manage their chronic pain. The committee acknowledged the high level of  
37 expenditure currently attributable to the use of drug treatments. Following the clinical review,  
38 the committee were of the view that the use of such interventions should ideally be reduced  
39 from levels in current practice.

40 The main class of interventions for which there was a signal of clinical benefit was  
41 antidepressants. The committee agreed that these showed benefit in reducing pain, and also

1 other outcomes such as quality of life. The committee decided to make a recommendation to  
2 consider antidepressants for people with chronic primary pain. The recommendation could  
3 not be stronger because of the lack of health economic evidence.

4 The committee agreed that overall, there was insufficient clinical evidence to justify the  
5 routine use of gabapentinoids for managing chronic primary pain, and made a  
6 recommendation against the use of gabapentinoids, unless in a clinical trial for CRPS.

7 The committee discussed the use of opioids at length. No clinical evidence was identified on  
8 the effectiveness of opioids in chronic primary pain, but some evidence on the risk of  
9 dependence from long term use was identified. The committee discussed that longer term  
10 use can lead to high costs of treating associated side effects. The committee therefore  
11 concluded, taking into account the balance of benefits and harms based on their own  
12 experience and data they were aware of, that opioids should not be used for the  
13 management of chronic primary pain.

14 The committee also made 'do not use' recommendations for drugs where there was no or  
15 very little evidence in the chronic primary pain population, and where they agreed new  
16 research would not change conclusions given the drugs have been around for many years  
17 and new research is unlikely.

18 Overall, the resource impact from the recommendations made for antidepressants in  
19 combination with the recommendations on drugs that should not be used are still likely to  
20 have a resource impact in the short term, as it is acknowledged that short term resources  
21 may be increased whilst helping people to stop their long-term use of opioids and  
22 gabapentinoids. Furthermore, it may be difficult to get people to agree that they should  
23 discontinue medications, so the extent to which practice will change for drugs where 'do not  
24 use' recommendations were made is unclear. Additionally, there is variation in the unit costs  
25 of antidepressants, and SNRIs are slightly more expensive than other types such as tricyclic  
26 antidepressants. However this does depend on dose. Also new uptake may be modest as  
27 there is already some use of antidepressants, and the recommendation is only a 'consider'  
28 recommendation. However in the longer term the recommendations made should reduce the  
29 use of pharmacological interventions in the management of chronic primary pain. It was also  
30 suggested that there could be further savings where potential harms are avoided through the  
31 reduced use of opioids and gabapentinoids. This could have wider benefits both to an  
32 individual and to other sectors outside healthcare, for example through people returning to  
33 the workforce.

#### **4.3 Other factors the committee took into account**

35 The committee were cognisant of the British National Formulary (BNF) monographs for  
36 opioids, gabapentin and pregabalin, including the cautions and side effects reported in the  
37 general population. They were also aware of a recent review by Public Health England  
38 'Dependence and withdrawal associated with some prescribed medicines' (2019). In  
39 particular, the report highlighted that apart from antidepressants, 'medications reviewed are  
40 all licensed and indicated for (usually) short-term treatment of acute conditions'. The report  
41 also highlighted the problems with inappropriate limiting of these medicines, and in  
42 conjunction with the BNF and summary of product characteristics (SPC) led the committee to

1 recommend being aware of the problems associated with withdrawing opioids,  
2 gabapentinoids and benzodiazepines.

3 The committee were aware of a large body of cohort study literature which did not meet the  
4 criteria for inclusion in the review of opioid safety. They also acknowledged that the evidence  
5 base for harms is much more extensive where outcomes are measured at less than 6  
6 months. However this review was intended to capture outcomes from long-term use of  
7 opioids, so studies which only reported outcomes at less than 6 months did not meet the  
8 inclusion criteria.

9 The committee noted the potential for toxicity in overdose with venlafaxine during  
10 consideration of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency safety guidance  
11 on SSRIs and SNRIs. No evidence was identified for venlafaxine in the review, therefore the  
12 committee made no specific recommendation related to this drug. However, it was  
13 determined that the recommendation to consider an antidepressant such as duloxetine would  
14 ensure that if an SNRI were the preferred class of antidepressant, it would be prescribed  
15 over venlafaxine.

16 The committee discussed that it is often reported that people with chronic primary pain may  
17 be more intolerant or sensitive to drugs, perhaps due to central sensitisation and it may be  
18 helpful to discuss this with the individual before the decision to prescribe.

19 The committee highlighted the importance of shared decision making, including discussion  
20 about the potential risk of dependence and monitoring. It was considered that good practice  
21 points from other guidelines such as NG46 Controlled drugs: safe use and management also  
22 inform the use of medications recommended in this guideline. The committee were also  
23 aware of the development of a NICE guideline on safe prescribing and withdrawal  
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25

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18 33
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# 1 Appendices

## 2 Appendix A: Review protocols

### 4 Review protocol for pharmacological treatment

ID	Field	Content
0.	PROSPERO registration number	Not registered.
1.	Review title	What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of pharmacological interventions for chronic primary pain?
2.	Review question	What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of pharmacological interventions for chronic primary pain?
3.	Objective	To determine the most clinically and cost effective pharmacological intervention for chronic primary pain.
4.	Searches	<p>The following databases will be searched:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)</li> <li>• Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)</li> <li>• Embase</li> <li>• MEDLINE</li> <li>• CINAHL, Current Nursing and Allied Health Literature</li> </ul> <p>Searches will be restricted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English language</li> <li>• Human studies</li> <li>• Letters and comments are excluded.</li> </ul>

		<p>Other searches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion lists of relevant systematic reviews will be checked by the reviewer. The searches may be re-run 6 weeks before final committee meeting and further studies retrieved for inclusion if relevant.</li> </ul> <p>The full search strategies will be published in the final review.</p>
5.	Condition or domain being studied	<p>Chronic pain in one or more anatomical regions that is characterized by significant emotional distress (anxiety, anger/frustration or depressed mood) and functional disability (interference in daily life activities and reduced participation in social roles). The diagnosis is appropriate independently of identified biological or psychological contributors unless another diagnosis would better account for the presenting symptoms.</p>
6.	Population	<p>Inclusion: People, aged 16 years and over, with chronic primary pain (whose pain management is not addressed by existing NICE guidance) (chronic widespread pain, complex regional pain syndrome, chronic visceral pain, chronic orofacial pain , chronic primary musculoskeletal pain other than orofacial)</p> <p>Exclusion: Those whose pain management is addressed by existing NICE guidance.</p>
7.	Intervention/Exposure/Test	<p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oral paracetamol</li> <li>• non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (by any route)</li> <li>• ketamine (by any route)</li> <li>• topical or intravenous local anaesthetics</li> <li>• local anaesthetics and/or corticosteroids by injection (trigger point)</li> <li>• oral or transdermal, intrathecal opioids (morphine, oxycodone, hydromorphone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, methadone, meptazinol, tapentadol, targinact, codeine, dihydrocodeine, tramadol, cocodamol, codydramol, naltrexone)</li> <li>• oral anti-epilepsy drugs (gabapentin, pregabalin, sodium valproate, carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, topiramate, lamotrigine, lacosamide, levetiracetam)</li> <li>• oral anti-depressants             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. amitriptyline, nortriptyline, clomipramine, imipramine)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (e.g. fluoxetine, citalopram)</li> <li>○ serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors (e.g. duloxetine, venlafaxine)</li> <li>○ tetracyclic antidepressants (mirtazapine)</li> <li>● oral cannabinoids (nabilone, nabixamols oromucosal spray)</li> <li>● antipsychotics (olanzapine, quetiapine, risperidone, aripiprazole)</li> <li>● benzodiazepines (diazepam, oxazepam, lorazepam, temazepam, nitrazepam, clonazepam)</li> </ul>
8.	Comparator/Reference standard/Confounding factors	<p>Comparators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● each other (drug class)<sup>a</sup></li> <li>● placebo</li> </ul>
9.	Types of study to be included	<p>Randomised controlled trials and systematic reviews of randomised controlled trials</p> <p>Cross-over randomised controlled trials will be considered if no non-cross-over randomised controlled trial evidence is identified.</p> <p>Enriched enrolment trials will be excluded as evidence from trials employing this methodology was considered to be of lower quality due to the increased risk of participant blinding/performance bias and the limited applicability to the wider review population.</p> <p><sup>a</sup> A stepped approach will be taken for within-class comparisons. If the evidence suggests superiority of a particular class after the class-comparison, within class comparison of that class will be explored.</p>
10.	Other exclusion criteria	<p>Non-English language studies.</p> <p>Within-class comparison</p>
11.	Context	<p>A clear understanding of the evidence for the effectiveness of chronic primary pain treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● improves the confidence of healthcare professionals in their conversations about pain, and</li> <li>● helps healthcare professionals and patients to have realistic expectations about outcomes of treatment.</li> </ul>
12.	Primary outcomes (critical outcomes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pain reduction (any validated scale) at ≤3 months, &gt;3 months*</li> <li>● health related quality of life (including meaningful activity) at ≤3 months, &gt;3 months*</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• physical function (5 minute walk, sit to stand, Roland Morris Disability Questionnaire, Oswestry Disability Index, Canadian Occupational Performance Measure) at ≤3 months, &gt;3 months*</li> <li>• psychological distress (depression/ anxiety) (preferably Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale) at ≤3 months, &gt;3 months*</li> <li>• discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months, &gt;3 months*</li> </ul> <p>* outcomes will be extracted at the longest time point up to 3 months and at the longest time point after 3 months</p>
13.	Secondary outcomes (important outcomes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of healthcare services at ≤3 months, &gt;3 months*</li> <li>• sleep at ≤3 months, &gt;3 months*</li> </ul> <p>* outcomes will be extracted at the longest time point up to 3 months and at the longest time point after 3 months</p>
14.	Data extraction (selection and coding)	<p>EndNote will be used for reference management, sifting, citations and bibliographies. All references identified by the searches and from other sources will be screened for inclusion. 10% of the abstracts will be reviewed by two reviewers, with any disagreements resolved by discussion or, if necessary, a third independent reviewer. The full text of potentially eligible studies will be retrieved and will be assessed in line with the criteria outlined above.</p> <p>EviBASE will be used for data extraction.</p> <p>Study investigators may be contacted for missing data where time and resources allow.</p>
15.	Risk of bias (quality) assessment	<p>Risk of bias will be assessed using the Cochrane Risk of Bias (2.0) tool. Disagreements between the review authors over the risk of bias in particular studies will be resolved by discussion, with involvement of a third review author where necessary.</p>
16.	Strategy for data synthesis	<p>Pairwise meta-analyses will be performed using Cochrane Review Manager (RevMan5). GRADEpro will be used to assess the quality of evidence for each outcome, taking into account individual study quality and the meta-analysis results. The 4 main quality elements (risk of bias, indirectness, inconsistency and imprecision) will be appraised for each outcome.</p>

17.	Analysis of sub-groups	<p>Proposed sensitivity / subgroup analysis to be explored where there is heterogeneity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chronic widespread pain</li> <li>• complex regional pain</li> <li>• visceral pain</li> <li>• orofacial pain</li> <li>• chronic primary musculoskeletal pain</li> </ul>	
18.	Type and method of review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intervention
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Diagnostic
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Prognostic
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Qualitative
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Epidemiologic
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Delivery
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)
19.	Language	English	
20.	Country	England	
21.	Anticipated or actual start date	NA – not registered on PROSPERO	
22.	Anticipated completion date	19/08/2020	
23.	Named contact	<p>5a. Named contact National Guideline Centre</p> <p>5b Named contact e-mail Chronicpain@nice.org.uk</p>	

		<p>5e Organisational affiliation of the review</p> <p>National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the National Guideline Centre</p>
24.	Review team members	<p>From the National Guideline Centre:</p> <p>Serena Carville, Guideline Lead</p> <p>Maria Smyth, Senior Systematic Reviewer</p> <p>Rebecca Boffa, Senior Systematic Reviewer</p> <p>Margaret Constanti, Senior Health Economist</p> <p>Joseph Runicles, Information Specialist</p> <p>Katie Broomfield, Project Manager</p>
25.	Funding sources/sponsor	<p>This systematic review is being completed by the National Guideline Centre which receives funding from NICE.</p>
26.	Conflicts of interest	<p>All guideline committee members and anyone who has direct input into NICE guidelines (including the evidence review team and expert witnesses) must declare any potential conflicts of interest in line with NICE's code of practice for declaring and dealing with conflicts of interest. Any relevant interests, or changes to interests, will also be declared publicly at the start of each guideline committee meeting. Before each meeting, any potential conflicts of interest will be considered by the guideline committee Chair and a senior member of the development team. Any decisions to exclude a person from all or part of a meeting will be documented. Any changes to a member's declaration of interests will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Declarations of interests will be published with the final guideline.</p>
27.	Collaborators	<p>Development of this systematic review will be overseen by an advisory committee who will use the review to inform the development of evidence-based recommendations in line with section 3 of <a href="#">Developing NICE guidelines: the manual</a>. Members of the guideline committee are available on the NICE website: <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10069">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10069</a></p>
28.	Other registration details	-



29.	Reference/URL for published protocol	-
30.	Dissemination plans	<p>NICE may use a range of different methods to raise awareness of the guideline. These include standard approaches such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notifying registered stakeholders of publication</li> <li>• publicising the guideline through NICE's newsletter and alerts</li> <li>• issuing a press release or briefing as appropriate, posting news articles on the NICE website, using social media channels, and publicising the guideline within NICE.</li> </ul>
31.	Keywords	-
32.	Details of existing review of same topic by same authors	-
33.	Additional information	-
34.	Details of final publication	<a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a>

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## Review protocol for long term safety of opioids for chronic pain

ID	Field	Content
0.	PROSPERO registration number	Not registered.
1.	Review title	What is the long-term safety of opioids for the management of chronic pain?
2.	Review question	What is the long-term safety of opioids for the management of chronic pain?
3.	Objective	To determine the long-term safety of opioids for the management of chronic pain.
4.	Searches	<p>The following databases will be searched:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)</li> <li>• Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embase</li> <li>• MEDLINE</li> <li>• CINAHL, Current Nursing and Allied Health Literature</li> </ul> <p>Searches will be restricted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English language</li> <li>• Human studies</li> <li>• Letters and comments are excluded.</li> </ul> <p>Other searches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion lists of relevant systematic reviews will be checked by the reviewer.</li> </ul> <p>The searches may be re-run 6 weeks before final committee meeting and further studies retrieved for inclusion if relevant.</p> <p>The full search strategies will be published in the final review.</p>
5.	Condition or domain being studied	Pain that persists or recurs for longer than 3 months.
6.	Population	<p>Inclusion: People, aged 16 years and over, with chronic pain.</p> <p>Exclusion: None</p>
7.	Intervention/Exposure/Test	<p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oral or transdermal opioids (morphine, oxycodone, hydromorphone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, methadone, meptazinol, tapentadol, targinact, codeine, dihydrocodeine, tramadol, cocodamol, codydramol, pethidine)</li> </ul> <p>prescribed for chronic pain management for ≥6 months</p>
8.	Comparator/Reference standard/Confounding factors	<p>Comparators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• placebo</li> <li>• no treatment/usual care</li> <li>• non-comparative data</li> </ul>
9.	Types of study to be included	Systematic reviews

		<p>Randomised controlled trials Observational studies</p> <p>We will use a minimum sample size to select studies for inclusion for observational studies. Where a large amount of evidence is identified for an intervention, we will preferentially extract the largest studies until the committee are satisfied that a sufficient amount of evidence has been identified.</p> <p>We will extract data according to the following hierarchy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Randomised controlled trials</li> <li>2. Large observational studies (including cohorts, case series and case-control if no cohorts or case series are identified). Initially limited to n&gt;5000. If insufficient evidence identified, sample size threshold will be lowered to n&gt;1000 for comparative data.</li> </ol>
10.	Other exclusion criteria	<p>Non-English language studies</p> <p>Within-class comparison</p> <p>Case reports</p> <p>Observational studies where &lt;5,000 participants receive the intervention, in the first instance (see note above re. hierarchy).</p> <p>Studies where the participants receive the intervention for &lt;6 months</p>
11.	Context	<p>A clear understanding of the evidence for the effectiveness of chronic pain treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improves the confidence of healthcare professionals in their conversations about pain, and</li> <li>• helps healthcare professionals and patients to have realistic expectations about outcomes of treatment.</li> </ul>
12.	Primary outcomes (critical outcomes)	<p>Serious adverse events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cognitive impairment</li> <li>• fractures and falls</li> <li>• sexual dysfunction/endocrine impairment</li> <li>• immune dysfunction</li> <li>• sleep apnoea</li> <li>• cardiovascular events</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all-cause mortality</li> <li>• self-harm/suicide</li> <li>• dependence</li> <li>• depressive symptoms/mood disturbances</li> </ul> <p>outcomes will be extracted at the longest time point up to 6 months, at the longest time point up to 1 year and at the longest time point after 1 year</p>		
13.	Secondary outcomes (important outcomes)	None		
14.	Data extraction (selection and coding)	<p>EndNote will be used for reference management, sifting, citations and bibliographies. All references identified by the searches and from other sources will be screened for inclusion. 10% of the abstracts will be reviewed by two reviewers, with any disagreements resolved by discussion or, if necessary, a third independent reviewer. The full text of potentially eligible studies will be retrieved and will be assessed in line with the criteria outlined above.</p> <p>EviBASE will be used for data extraction.</p> <p>Study investigators may be contacted for missing data where time and resources allow.</p>		
15.	Risk of bias (quality) assessment	<p>Risk of bias will be assessed using the Cochrane Risk of Bias (2.0) tool. Disagreements between the review authors over the risk of bias in particular studies will be resolved by discussion, with involvement of a third review author where necessary.</p>		
16.	Strategy for data synthesis	<p>Pairwise meta-analyses will be performed using Cochrane Review Manager (RevMan5). GRADEpro will be used to assess the quality of evidence for each outcome, taking into account individual study quality and the meta-analysis results. The 4 main quality elements (risk of bias, indirectness, inconsistency and imprecision) will be appraised for each outcome.</p>		
17.	Analysis of sub-groups	<p>Proposed sensitivity/subgroup analysis to be explored where there is heterogeneity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• age (16-25, 25-65, 65 and over)</li> <li>• co-prescribing</li> </ul>		
18.	Type and method of review	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Intervention</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intervention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intervention			

		<input type="checkbox"/> Diagnostic <input type="checkbox"/> Prognostic <input type="checkbox"/> Qualitative <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiologic <input type="checkbox"/> Service Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
19.	Language	English
20.	Country	England
21.	Anticipated or actual start date	NA – not registered on PROSPERO
22.	Anticipated completion date	19/08/2020
23.	Named contact	<p>5a. Named contact National Guideline Centre</p> <p>5b Named contact e-mail Chronicpain@nice.org.uk</p> <p>5e Organisational affiliation of the review National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the National Guideline Centre</p>
24.	Review team members	<p>From the National Guideline Centre:</p> <p>Serena Carville, Guideline Lead</p> <p>Maria Smyth, Senior Systematic Reviewer</p>

		<p>Rebecca Boffa, Senior Systematic Reviewer</p> <p>Margaret Constanti, Senior Health Economist</p> <p>Joseph Runicles, Information Specialist</p> <p>Katie Broomfield, Project Manager</p>
25.	Funding sources/sponsor	This systematic review is being completed by the National Guideline Centre which receives funding from NICE.
26.	Conflicts of interest	All guideline committee members and anyone who has direct input into NICE guidelines (including the evidence review team and expert witnesses) must declare any potential conflicts of interest in line with NICE's code of practice for declaring and dealing with conflicts of interest. Any relevant interests, or changes to interests, will also be declared publicly at the start of each guideline committee meeting. Before each meeting, any potential conflicts of interest will be considered by the guideline committee Chair and a senior member of the development team. Any decisions to exclude a person from all or part of a meeting will be documented. Any changes to a member's declaration of interests will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Declarations of interests will be published with the final guideline.
27.	Collaborators	Development of this systematic review will be overseen by an advisory committee who will use the review to inform the development of evidence-based recommendations in line with section 3 of <a href="#">Developing NICE guidelines: the manual</a> . Members of the guideline committee are available on the NICE website: <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10069">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10069</a>
28.	Other registration details	-
29.	Reference/URL for published protocol	-
30.	Dissemination plans	<p>NICE may use a range of different methods to raise awareness of the guideline. These include standard approaches such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notifying registered stakeholders of publication</li> <li>• publicising the guideline through NICE's newsletter and alerts</li> <li>• issuing a press release or briefing as appropriate, posting news articles on the NICE website, using social media channels, and publicising the guideline within NICE.</li> </ul>
31.	Keywords	-

32.	Details of existing review of same topic by same authors	-
33.	Additional information	-
34.	Details of final publication	<a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a>

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## 2 Review protocol for safety of gabapentinoids

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ID	Field	Content
0.	PROSPERO registration number	Not registered.
1.	Review title	What is the long-term safety of gabapentinoids for the management of chronic pain?
2.	Review question	What is the long-term safety of gabapentinoids for the management of chronic pain?
3.	Objective	To determine the long-term safety of gabapentinoids for the management of chronic pain.
4.	Searches	<p>The following databases will be searched:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)</li> <li>• Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)</li> <li>• Embase</li> <li>• MEDLINE</li> <li>• CINAHL, Current Nursing and Allied Health Literature</li> </ul> <p>Searches will be restricted by:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English language</li> <li>Human studies</li> <li>Letters and comments are excluded.</li> </ul> <p>Other searches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion lists of relevant systematic reviews will be checked by the reviewer.</li> </ul> <p>The searches may be re-run 6 weeks before final committee meeting and further studies retrieved for inclusion if relevant.</p> <p>The full search strategies will be published in the final review.</p>
5.	Condition or domain being studied	Pain that persists or recurs for longer than 3 months.
6.	Population	<p>Inclusion: People, aged 16 years and over, with chronic pain.</p> <p>Exclusion: None</p>
7.	Intervention/Exposure/Test	<p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gabapentin</li> <li>pregabalin</li> </ul> <p>prescribed for pain management.</p>
8.	Comparator/Reference standard/Confounding factors	<p>Comparators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>placebo</li> <li>each other</li> <li>non-comparative data</li> </ul>
9.	Types of study to be included	Systematic reviews



		<p>Randomised controlled trials Observational studies</p> <p>We will use a minimum sample size to select studies for inclusion for observational studies. Where a large amount of evidence is identified for an intervention, we will preferentially extract the largest studies until the committee are satisfied that a sufficient amount of evidence has been identified.</p> <p>We will extract data according to the following hierarchy: 1.Large observational studies (including cohorts, case series and case-control if no cohorts or case series are identified). Initially limited to n&gt;5000. If insufficient evidence identified, sample size threshold will be lowered to n&gt;1000. 2.Randomised controlled trials</p>
10.	Other exclusion criteria	<p>Non-English language studies Case reports Observational studies where &lt;5,000 participants receive the intervention, in the first instance (see note above re. hierarchy). Studies where the participants receive the intervention for &lt;6 months</p>
11.	Context	<p>A clear understanding of the evidence for the effectiveness of chronic pain treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improves the confidence of healthcare professionals in their conversations about pain, and</li> <li>• helps healthcare professionals and patients to have realistic expectations about outcomes of treatment.</li> </ul>
12.	Primary outcomes (critical outcomes)	<p>Serious adverse events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cognitive impairment</li> <li>• gait disturbance/ataxia</li> <li>• loss of balance</li> <li>• all-cause mortality</li> <li>• dependence</li> <li>• weight gain</li> <li>• rash</li> <li>• peripheral oedema</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tremor</li> <li>• somnolence</li> </ul> <p>Outcomes will be extracted at the longest time point up to 6 months, at the longest time point up to 1 year and at the longest time point after 1 year</p>
13.	Secondary outcomes (important outcomes)	None
14.	Data extraction (selection and coding)	<p>EndNote will be used for reference management, sifting, citations and bibliographies. All references identified by the searches and from other sources will be screened for inclusion. 10% of the abstracts will be reviewed by two reviewers, with any disagreements resolved by discussion or, if necessary, a third independent reviewer. The full text of potentially eligible studies will be retrieved and will be assessed in line with the criteria outlined above.</p> <p>EviBASE will be used for data extraction.</p> <p>Study investigators may be contacted for missing data where time and resources allow.</p>
15.	Risk of bias (quality) assessment	Risk of bias will be assessed using the Cochrane Risk of Bias (2.0) tool. Disagreements between the review authors over the risk of bias in particular studies will be resolved by discussion, with involvement of a third review author where necessary.
16.	Strategy for data synthesis	Pairwise meta-analyses will be performed using Cochrane Review Manager (RevMan5). GRADEpro will be used to assess the quality of evidence for each outcome, taking into account individual study quality and the meta-analysis results. The 4 main quality elements (risk of bias, indirectness, inconsistency and imprecision) will be appraised for each outcome.
17.	Analysis of sub-groups	<p>Proposed sensitivity/subgroup analysis to be explored where there is heterogeneity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• age (16-25, 25-65, 65 and over)</li> <li>• co-prescribing</li> </ul>
18.	Type and method of review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intervention
		<input type="checkbox"/> Diagnostic
		<input type="checkbox"/> Prognostic

		<input type="checkbox"/>	Qualitative
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Epidemiologic
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Delivery
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)
19.	Language	English	
20.	Country	England	
21.	Anticipated or actual start date	NA – not registered on PROSPERO	
22.	Anticipated completion date	19/08/2020	
23.	Named contact	<p>5a. Named contact National Guideline Centre</p> <p>5b Named contact e-mail Chronicpain@nice.org.uk</p> <p>5e Organisational affiliation of the review National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the National Guideline Centre</p>	
24.	Review team members	<p>From the National Guideline Centre:</p> <p>Serena Carville, Guideline Lead</p> <p>Maria Smyth, Senior Systematic Reviewer</p> <p>Rebecca Boffa, Senior Systematic Reviewer</p> <p>Margaret Constanti, Senior Health Economist</p>	

		Joseph Runicles, Information Specialist Katie Broomfield, Project Manager
25.	Funding sources/sponsor	This systematic review is being completed by the National Guideline Centre which receives funding from NICE.
26.	Conflicts of interest	All guideline committee members and anyone who has direct input into NICE guidelines (including the evidence review team and expert witnesses) must declare any potential conflicts of interest in line with NICE's code of practice for declaring and dealing with conflicts of interest. Any relevant interests, or changes to interests, will also be declared publicly at the start of each guideline committee meeting. Before each meeting, any potential conflicts of interest will be considered by the guideline committee Chair and a senior member of the development team. Any decisions to exclude a person from all or part of a meeting will be documented. Any changes to a member's declaration of interests will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Declarations of interests will be published with the final guideline.
27.	Collaborators	Development of this systematic review will be overseen by an advisory committee who will use the review to inform the development of evidence-based recommendations in line with section 3 of <a href="#">Developing NICE guidelines: the manual</a> . Members of the guideline committee are available on the NICE website: <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10069">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10069</a>
28.	Other registration details	-
29.	Reference/URL for published protocol	-
30.	Dissemination plans	NICE may use a range of different methods to raise awareness of the guideline. These include standard approaches such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notifying registered stakeholders of publication</li> <li>• publicising the guideline through NICE's newsletter and alerts</li> <li>• issuing a press release or briefing as appropriate, posting news articles on the NICE website, using social media channels, and publicising the guideline within NICE.</li> </ul>
31.	Keywords	-
32.	Details of existing review of same topic by same authors	-

33.	Additional information	-
34.	Details of final publication	<a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a>

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1 **Table 20: Health economic review protocol**

<b>Review question</b>	<b>All questions – health economic evidence</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To identify health economic studies relevant to any of the review questions.
<b>Search criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Populations, interventions and comparators must be as specified in the clinical review protocol above.</li> <li>• Studies must be of a relevant health economic study design (cost–utility analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, cost–benefit analysis, cost–consequences analysis, comparative cost analysis).</li> <li>• Studies must not be a letter, editorial or commentary, or a review of health economic evaluations. (Recent reviews will be ordered although not reviewed. The bibliographies will be checked for relevant studies, which will then be ordered.)</li> <li>• Unpublished reports will not be considered unless submitted as part of a call for evidence.</li> <li>• Studies must be in English.</li> </ul>
<b>Search strategy</b>	A health economic study search will be undertaken using population-specific terms and a health economic study filter – see appendix B below.
<b>Review strategy</b>	<p>Studies not meeting any of the search criteria above will be excluded. Studies published before 2002. Abstract-only studies and studies from non-OECD countries or the USA will also be excluded.</p> <p>Each remaining study will be assessed for applicability and methodological limitations using the NICE economic evaluation checklist which can be found in appendix H of Developing NICE guidelines: the manual (2014).<sup>410</sup></p> <p><b>Inclusion and exclusion criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a study is rated as both ‘Directly applicable’ and with ‘Minor limitations’ then it will be included in the guideline. A health economic evidence table will be completed and it will be included in the health economic evidence profile.</li> <li>• If a study is rated as either ‘Not applicable’ or with ‘Very serious limitations’ then it will usually be excluded from the guideline. If it is excluded then a health economic evidence table will not be completed and it will not be included in the health economic evidence profile.</li> <li>• If a study is rated as ‘Partially applicable’, with ‘Potentially serious limitations’ or both then there is discretion over whether it should be included.</li> </ul> <p><b>Where there is discretion</b></p> <p>The health economist will make a decision based on the relative applicability and quality of the available evidence for that question, in discussion with the guideline committee if required. The ultimate aim is to include health economic studies that are helpful for decision-making in the context of the guideline and the current NHS setting. If several studies are considered of sufficiently high applicability and methodological quality that they could all be included, then the health economist, in discussion with the committee if required, may decide to include only the most applicable studies and to selectively exclude the remaining studies. All studies excluded on the basis of applicability or methodological limitations will be listed with explanation in the excluded health economic studies appendix below.</p> <p>The health economist will be guided by the following hierarchies.</p> <p><i>Setting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK NHS (most applicable).</li> <li>• OECD countries with predominantly public health insurance systems (for example, France, Germany, Sweden).</li> </ul>

- OECD countries with predominantly private health insurance systems (for example, Switzerland).
  - Studies set in non-OECD countries or in the USA will be excluded before being assessed for applicability and methodological limitations.
- Health economic study type:*
- Cost–utility analysis (most applicable).
  - Other type of full economic evaluation (cost–benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, cost–consequences analysis).
  - Comparative cost analysis.
  - Non-comparative cost analyses including cost-of-illness studies will be excluded before being assessed for applicability and methodological limitations.
- Year of analysis:*
- The more recent the study, the more applicable it will be.
  - Studies published in 2002 or later but that depend on unit costs and resource data entirely or predominantly from before 2002 will be rated as ‘Not applicable’.
  - Studies published before 2002 will be excluded before being assessed for applicability and methodological limitations.
- Quality and relevance of effectiveness data used in the health economic analysis:*
- The more closely the clinical effectiveness data used in the health economic analysis match with the outcomes of the studies included in the clinical review the more useful the analysis will be for decision-making in the guideline.

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## 2 **Appendix B: Literature search strategies**

3 The literature searches for these reviews are detailed below and complied with the  
4 methodology outlined in Developing NICE guidelines: the manual.<sup>410</sup>

5 For more information, please see the Methods Report published as part of the accompanying  
6 documents for this guideline.

### 7 **B.1 Clinical search literature search strategy**

8 Searches were constructed using a PICO framework where population (P) terms were  
9 combined with Intervention (I) and in some cases Comparison (C) terms. Outcomes (O) are  
10 rarely used in search strategies for interventions as these concepts may not be well  
11 described in title, abstract or indexes and therefore difficult to retrieve. Search filters were  
12 applied to the search where appropriate.

13

Database	Dates searched	Search filter used
Medline (OVID)	1946 – 20 May 2020	Exclusions Randomised controlled trials Systematic review studies
Embase (OVID)	1974 – 20 May 2020	Exclusions Randomised controlled trials Systematic review studies
The Cochrane Library (Wiley)	Cochrane Reviews to 2020 Issue 5 of 12 CENTRAL to 2020 Issue 5 of 12	None

14 **Medline (Ovid) search terms**

1.	Chronic pain/
2.	((chronic or persist* or idiopathic or atypical or a-typical) adj4 pain).ti,ab.
3.	exp Complex Regional Pain Syndromes/
4.	(complex regional pain syndrome* or CRPS or causalgia).ti,ab.
5.	((reflex or sympathetic) adj2 dystroph*).ti,ab.
6.	fibromyalgia/
7.	(fibromyalgia* or fibrositis or myofascial pain syndrome).ti,ab.
8.	vulvodynia/
9.	(vulvodynia or vestibulodynia or dyspareunia or vulvar vestibulitis or vulvitis).ti,ab.
10.	interstitial cystitis/
11.	(interstitial adj2 cystitis).ti,ab.
12.	algodystrophy/
13.	(algodystroph* or sudek or sudeck*).ti,ab.
14.	exp myofascial pain syndromes/
15.	cystitis, interstitial/
16.	(loin pain adj (haematuria or hematuria) adj syndrome*).ti,ab.
17.	(LPHS or prostatodynia or CPPS or atypic* odontalgia or a-typic* odontalgia or burning mouth syndrome* or phantom tooth pain or neuropathic orofacial pain or "myofascial pain" or MPS).ti,ab.
18.	((pelvic or pelvis) adj pain syndrome*).ti,ab.
19.	((non-cardiac or noncardiac) adj3 chest adj3 pain).ti,ab.
20.	(temporomandibular adj3 joint adj3 pain).ti,ab.
21.	((prostate or vulv* or bladder or perineal) adj3 pain).ti,ab.
22.	(functional pain syndrome* or non-cancer pain or noncancer pain).ti,ab.
23.	((pelvic or pelvis or abdominal) adj3 pain adj3 (unknown or un-known or idiopathic or atypic* or a-typic*).ti,ab.
24.	or/1-23
25.	letter/
26.	editorial/
27.	news/
28.	exp historical article/
29.	Anecdotes as Topic/
30.	comment/
31.	case report/
32.	(letter or comment*).ti.
33.	or/25-32
34.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
35.	33 not 34
36.	animals/ not humans/
37.	exp Animals, Laboratory/
38.	exp Animal Experimentation/
39.	exp Models, Animal/
40.	exp Rodentia/
41.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
42.	or/35-41
43.	24 not 42
44.	limit 43 to English language
45.	exp *paracetamol/



46.	(acetaminophen or paracetamol).ti,ab.
47.	exp analgesics, opioid/
48.	(non-steroid* or non-narcotic* or analgesic* or pharmacolog*).ti,ab.
49.	exp *nonsteroid antiinflammatory agent/ or exp *analgesic agent/
50.	(NSAID* or ibuprofen or aspirin or naproxen or fenoprofen or flurbiprofen or ketoprofen or dexketoprofen or dexibuprofen or tiaprofenic acid or diclofenac or aceclofenac or indometacin or mefenamic acid or meloxicam or nabumetone or phenylbutazone or piroxicam or sulindac or tenoxicam or tolfenamic acid or ketorolac or celecoxib or etoricoxib or aceclofenac or acemetacin or diclofenac or etodolac).ti,ab.
51.	(Opioid* or Opiate*).ti,ab.
52.	(morphine or Astramorph or avinza or depodur or duramorph or embeda or infumorph or kadian or m-eslon or morcap or morphia or ms contin or msir or mst or nepenthe or oramorph or rescudose or rms or roxanol or sevredol or statex or zomorph).ti,ab.
53.	exp morphinans/
54.	(opium or omnopon or pantopon or papaveretum).ti,ab.
55.	(Hydromorphone or dihydromorphinone or dilaudid or dimorphone or exalgo or hydmrphn or hydromorph* or hydrostat or hymorphan or laudicon or novolauden or palladone).ti,ab.
56.	(oxycodone or Dazidox or dihydrohydroxycodone or dihydron or dinarkon or endocodone or eth-oxydose or eucodal or hydroxycodone or m-oxy or oxiconum or oxycdn or oxycone or oxycontin or oxyfast or oxyir or pancodine or percocet or percolone or remoxy or roxicodone or theocodin).ti,ab.
57.	(Dihydrocodeine or contugesic or dhc mundipharma or dicodin or dihydcdn or paracodin or paramol or parzone or rikodeine or tiamon or tosidrin or tuscodin).ti,ab.
58.	(Diamorphine or acetomorphine or diacetylmorphine or diagesil or diamorf or heroin or min-i-jet morphine sulfate or skag).ti,ab.
59.	(Codeine or ardinex or galcodeine or isocodeine or methyl morphine or rx 336m or stanley-linctus or stanley-syrup).ti,ab.
60.	Ketobemidone.ti,ab.
61.	(Pethidine or demerol or dolantin or dolargan or dolconal or dolosal or dolsin or isonipecain or isonipecaine hydrochloride or lydol or meperidine or operidine epj or pethilorfan).ti,ab.
62.	(Fentanyl or abstral or actiq or duragesic or fentanest or fentora or fentyl or ionsys or matrifan or nasalfent or onsolis or oralet or phentanyl or sublimaze).ti,ab.
63.	Dextromoramide.ti,ab.
64.	(Piritramide or Dipidolor or dipydolor or Piridolan or Pirium).ti,ab.
65.	(Dextropropoxyphene or darvon or dolene or doloxene or levopropoxyphene or pp-cap or propoxyphene or proxyphen).ti,ab.
66.	(Bezitramide or Burgodin).ti,ab.
67.	(methadone or adanon or althosone or amidines or amidone or biodone or diskets or dolophine or Heptadon or metadol or metasedin or methaddict or metharose or Methadose or methdn or methex or phy or phymet or physeptone or pinadone or symoron).ti,ab.
68.	exp *pentazocine lactate/ or exp *pentazocine/ or exp *paracetamol plus pentazocine/ or exp *naloxone plus pentazocine/
69.	(Pentazocine or Fortral or Fortwin or lexir or Talacen or talwin).ti,ab.
70.	exp *phenazocine/
71.	(Phenazocine or Prinadol or Narphen).ti,ab.
72.	Oripavine.ti,ab.
73.	(Buprenorphine or '6029-m' or buprenex or buprex or prefin or Suboxone or subutex or temgesic).ti,ab.
74.	(Etorphine or Immobilon or M99).ti,ab.

75.	exp *butorphanol tartrate/ or exp *butorphanol/
76.	(Butorphanol or 'bc2627' or beforal or dolorex or moradol or stadol or torbugesic).ti,ab.
77.	(Tilidine or tilidate or Valoron or Valtran or Tilidin).ti,ab.
78.	exp *tramadol/ or exp *paracetamol plus tramadol/
79.	(Tramadol or 'k-315' or ralivia or ryzolt or tramahexal or tramake insts or tramal* or tramedo or ultram or zamadol or zydol).ti,ab.
80.	(Dezocine or Dalgan or 'WY-16225').ti,ab.
81.	targinact.ti,ab.
82.	exp *meptazinol/
83.	(Meptazinol or Meptid).ti,ab.
84.	(Tapentadol or cg5503 or nucynta).ti,ab.
85.	(Remifentanil or 'gi 87084b' or remifentanyl or ultiva).ti,ab.
86.	exp *penicillin G sodium plus procaine penicillin/ or exp *procaine/ or exp *adrenalin plus procaine/ or exp *penicillin G sodium plus procaine penicillin plus streptomycin sulfate/ or exp *penicillin G potassium plus procaine penicillin plus streptomycin sulfate/ or exp *procaine penicillin/ or exp *penicillin G potassium plus procaine penicillin/ or exp *benzathine penicillin plus procaine penicillin/ or exp *procaine penicillin plus streptomycin sulfate/
87.	(Procaine or allocaine or anuject or gerokit or mericaine or novocaine or procaina serra).ti,ab.
88.	alfentanil.ti,ab.
89.	(Alfenta or alfentanyl or fanaxal or limifen or rapifen).ti,ab.
90.	(Dipipanone or co-dydramol or co-codamaol).ti,ab.
91.	naltrexone/ or naloxone plus oxycodone/
92.	naltrexone.ti,ab.
93.	ketamine/
94.	(ketamine or inducmina or ketalar or ketanest or calypso or narkamon or keta or velonarcon or ketmin or ketava or ketalin or ketina or brevinaze or keta-hameln).ti,ab.
95.	((topical or intravenous or intra-venous or IV) adj3 (an?esthe* or lidocain* or lignocain* or tetracain* or amethocain* or benzocain* or butamben or dibucain* or pramoxin* or prilocain* or etidocian)).ti,ab.
96.	(emla* or eutectic mixture of local an?esthe* or tetracaine?adrenaline?cocain* or tetracaine?epinephrine?cocain* or lidocaine?adrenaline?tetracain* or lidocaine?epinephrine?tetracain*).ti,ab.
97.	exp anticonvulsive agent/
98.	(carbamazepine or clobazam or clonazepam or ethosuximide or gabapentin or lacosamide or lamotrigine or levetiracetam or oxcarbazepine or phenytoin or pregabalin or rufinamide or topiramate or valproate or vigabatrin or zonisamide).ti,ab.
99.	(antidepress* or anti-depress*).ti,ab.
100.	serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor*.ti,ab.
101.	selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor*.ti,ab.
102.	(SSRI or SNRI).ti,ab.
103.	(amoxapine or bupropion or citalopram or fluoxetine or fluvoxamine or maprotiline or mianserin or paroxetine or quipazine or ritanserin or sulpiride or trazodone or tryptophan or viloxazine or amitriptyline or clomipramine or desipramine or dothiepin or doxepin or imipramine or iprindole or lofepramine or nortriptyline or opipramol or protriptyline or trimipramine or nortriptyline or duloxetine or mirtazapine or venlafaxine).ti,ab.
104.	(cannabis or hemp or marijuana or ganja or hashish or marihuana or bhang or canninoid or cannabinoids or marinol or dronabinol or nabilone or cesamet or dexanabinol or sativex or tetrahydrocannabinolor or nabixamols oromucosal spray).ti,ab.

105.	(neurolept* or antipsychotic*).ti,ab.
106.	neuroleptanalgesia/
107.	exp neuroleptic agent/
108.	(diazepam or oxazepam or lorazepam or temazepam or nitrazepam or cloazepam).ti,ab.
109.	or/45-108
110.	44 and 109
111.	randomized controlled trial.pt.
112.	controlled clinical trial.pt.
113.	randomi#ed.ti,ab.
114.	placebo.ab.
115.	randomly.ti,ab.
116.	Clinical Trials as topic.sh.
117.	trial.ti.
118.	or/111-117
119.	Meta-Analysis/
120.	exp Meta-Analysis as Topic/
121.	(meta analy* or metanaly* or metaanaly* or meta regression).ti,ab.
122.	((systematic* or evidence*) adj3 (review* or overview*)).ti,ab.
123.	(reference list* or bibliograph* or hand search* or manual search* or relevant journals).ab.
124.	(search strategy or search criteria or systematic search or study selection or data extraction).ab.
125.	(search* adj4 literature).ab.
126.	(medline or pubmed or cochrane or embase or psychlit or psyclit or psychinfo or psycinfo or cinahl or science citation index or bids or cancerlit).ab.
127.	cochrane.jw.
128.	((multiple treatment* or indirect or mixed) adj2 comparison*).ti,ab.
129.	or/119-128
130.	110 and (118 or 129)

1 **Embase (Ovid) search terms**

1.	Chronic pain/
2.	((chronic or persist* or idiopathic or atypical or a-typical) adj4 pain).ti,ab.
3.	exp Complex regional pain syndrome/
4.	(complex regional pain syndrome* or CRPS or causalgia).ti,ab.
5.	((reflex or sympathetic) adj2 dystroph*).ti,ab.
6.	fibromyalgia/
7.	(fibromyalgia* or fibrositis or myofascial pain syndrome).ti,ab.
8.	vulvodynia/
9.	(vulvodynia or vestibulodynia or dyspareunia or vulvar vestibulitis or vulvitis).ti,ab.
10.	interstitial cystitis/
11.	(interstitial adj2 cystitis).ti,ab.
12.	algodystrophy/
13.	(algodystroph* or sudek or sudeck*).ti,ab.
14.	myofascial pain/
15.	noncardiac chest pain/
16.	cystalgia/
17.	Pelvis pain syndrome/

18.	(loin pain adj (haematuria or hematuria) adj syndrome*).ti,ab.
19.	(LPHS or prostatodynia or CPPS or atypic* odontalgia or a-typic* odontalgia or burning mouth syndrome* or phantom tooth pain or neuropathic orofacial pain or "myofascial pain" or MPS).ti,ab.
20.	((pelvic or pelvis) adj pain syndrome*).ti,ab.
21.	((non-cardiac or noncardiac) adj3 chest adj3 pain).ti,ab.
22.	(temporomandibular adj3 joint adj3 pain).ti,ab.
23.	((prostate or vulv* or bladder or perineal) adj3 pain).ti,ab.
24.	(functional pain syndrome* or non-cancer pain or noncancer pain).ti,ab.
25.	((pelvic or pelvis or abdominal) adj3 pain adj3 (unknown or un-known or idiopathic or atypic* or a-typic*)).ti,ab.
26.	or/1-25
27.	letter.pt. or letter/
28.	note.pt.
29.	editorial.pt.
30.	case report/ or case study/
31.	(letter or comment*).ti.
32.	or/27-31
33.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
34.	32 not 33
35.	animal/ not human/
36.	nonhuman/
37.	exp Animal Experiment/
38.	exp Experimental Animal/
39.	animal model/
40.	exp Rodent/
41.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
42.	or/34-41
43.	26 not 42
44.	limit 43 to English language
45.	exp *paracetamol/
46.	(acetaminophen or paracetamol).ti,ab.
47.	exp *narcotic analgesic agent/
48.	(non-steroid* or non-narcotic* or analgesic* or pharmacolog*).ti,ab.
49.	exp *nonsteroid antiinflammatory agent/ or exp *analgesic agent/
50.	(NSAID* or ibuprofen or aspirin or naproxen or fenoprofen or flurbiprofen or ketoprofen or dexketoprofen or dexibuprofen or tiaprofenic acid or diclofenac or aceclofenac or indometacin or mefenamic acid or meloxicam or nabumetone or phenylbutazone or piroxicam or sulindac or tenoxicam or tolfenamic acid or ketorolac or celecoxib or etoricoxib or aceclofenac or acemetacin or diclofenac or etodolac).ti,ab.
51.	(Opioid* or Opiate*).ti,ab.
52.	(morphine or Astramorph or avinza or depodur or duramorph or embeda or infumorph or kadian or m-eslon or morcap or morphia or ms contin or msir or mst or nepenthe or oramorph or rescudose or rms or roxanol or sevredol or statex or zomorph).ti,ab.
53.	morphine/
54.	*opiate/
55.	(opium or omnopon or pantopon or papaveretum).ti,ab.
56.	(Hydromorphone or dihydromorphinone or dilaudid or dimorphone or exalgo or hydmrphn or hydromorph* or hydrostat or hymorphan or laudicon or novolauden or palladone).ti,ab.

57.	(oxycodone or Dazidox or dihydrohydroxycodone or dihydron or dinarkon or endocodone or eth-oxydose or eucodal or hydroxycodone or m-oxy or oxiconum or oxycdn or oxycone or oxycontin or oxyfast or oxyir or pancodine or percocet or percolone or remoxy or roxicodone or theocodin).ti,ab.
58.	(Dihydrocodeine or contugesic or dhc mundipharma or dicodin or dihydcdn or paracodin or paramol or parzone or rikodeine or tiamon or tosidrin or tuscodin).ti,ab.
59.	(Diamorphine or acetomorphine or diacetylmorphine or diagesil or diamorf or heroin or min-i-jet morphine sulfate or skag).ti,ab.
60.	(Codeine or ardinex or galcodine or isocodeine or methyl morphine or rx 336m or stanley-linctus or stanley-syrup).ti,ab.
61.	Ketobemidone.ti,ab.
62.	(Pethidine or demerol or dolantin or dolargan or dolcontral or dolosal or dolsin or isonipeccain or isonipeccaine hydrochloride or lydol or meperidine or operidine epj or pethilorfan).ti,ab.
63.	(Fentanyl or abstral or actiq or duragesic or fentanest or fentora or fentyl or ionsys or matrifan or nasalfent or onsolis or oralet or phentanyl or sublimaze).ti,ab.
64.	Dextromoramide.ti,ab.
65.	(Piritramide or Dipidolor or dipydolor or Piridolan or Pirium).ti,ab.
66.	(Dextropropoxyphene or darvon or dolene or doloxene or levopropoxyphene or pp-cap or propoxyphene or proxyphen).ti,ab.
67.	(Bezitramide or Burgodin).ti,ab.
68.	(methadone or adanon or althos or amidines or amidone or biodone or diskets or dolophine or Heptadon or metadol or metasedin or methaddict or metharose or Methadose or methdn or methex or phy or phymet or physeptone or pinadone or symoron).ti,ab.
69.	exp *benzomorphan derivative/
70.	exp *pentazocine lactate/ or exp *pentazocine/ or exp *paracetamol plus pentazocine/ or exp *naloxone plus pentazocine/
71.	(Pentazocine or Fortral or Fortwin or lexir or Talacen or talwin).ti,ab.
72.	exp *phenazocine/
73.	(Phenazocine or Prinadol or Narphen).ti,ab.
74.	Oripavine.ti,ab.
75.	(Buprenorphine or '6029-m' or buprenex or buprex or prefin or Suboxone or subutex or temgesic).ti,ab.
76.	(Etorphine or Immobilon or M99).ti,ab.
77.	exp *morphinan derivative/
78.	exp *butorphanol tartrate/ or exp *butorphanol/
79.	(Butorphanol or 'bc2627' or beforal or dolorex or moradol or stadol or torbugesic).ti,ab.
80.	(Tilidine or tilidate or Valoron or Valtran or Tilidin).ti,ab.
81.	exp *tramadol/ or exp *paracetamol plus tramadol/
82.	(Tramadol or 'k-315' or ralivia or ryzolt or tramahexal or tramake insts or tramal* or tramedo or ultram or zamadol or zydol).ti,ab.
83.	(Dezocine or Dalgan or 'WY-16225').ti,ab.
84.	targinact.ti,ab.
85.	exp *meptazinol/
86.	(Meptazinol or Meptid).ti,ab.
87.	(Tapentadol or cg5503 or nucynta).ti,ab.
88.	(Remifentanyl or 'gi 87084b' or remifentanyl or ultiva).ti,ab.
89.	exp *penicillin G sodium plus procaine penicillin/ or exp *procaine/ or exp *adrenalin plus procaine/ or exp *penicillin G sodium plus procaine penicillin plus streptomycin sulfate/ or exp *penicillin G potassium plus procaine penicillin plus streptomycin sulfate/ or exp *procaine penicillin/ or exp *penicillin G potassium plus procaine penicillin/ or

	exp *benzathine penicillin plus procaine penicillin/ or exp *procaine penicillin plus streptomycin sulfate/
90.	(Procaine or allocaine or anuject or gerokit or mericaine or novocaine or procaina serra).ti,ab.
91.	exp *cocodamol/
92.	alfentanil.ti,ab.
93.	(Alfenta or alfentanyl or fanaxal or limifen or rapifen).ti,ab.
94.	(Dipipanone or co-dydramol or co-codamaol).ti,ab.
95.	naltrexone/ or naloxone plus oxycodone/
96.	naltrexone.ti,ab.
97.	ketamine/
98.	(ketamine or inducmina or ketalar or ketanest or calypso or narkamon or keta or velonarcon or ketmin or ketava or ketalin or ketina or brevinaze or keta-hameln).ti,ab.
99.	((topical or intravenous or intra-venous or IV) adj3 (an?esthe* or lidocain* or lignocain* or tetracain* or amethocain* or benzocain* or butamben or dibucain* or pramoxin* or prilocain* or etidocian)).ti,ab.
100.	(emla* or eutectic mixture of local an?esthe* or tetracaine?adrenaline?cocain* or tetracaine?epinephrine?cocain* or lidocaine?adrenaline?tetracain* or lidocaine?epinephrine?tetracain*).ti,ab.
101.	exp anticonvulsive agent/
102.	(carbamazepine or clobazam or clonazepam or ethosuximide or gabapentin or lacosamide or lamotrigine or levetiracetam or oxcarbazepine or phenytoin or pregabalin or rufinamide or topiramate or valproate or vigabatrin or zonisamide).ti,ab.
103.	exp *antidepressant agent/
104.	(antidepress* or anti-depress*).ti,ab.
105.	serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor*.ti,ab.
106.	selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor*.ti,ab.
107.	(SSRI or SNRI).ti,ab.
108.	(amoxapine or bupropion or citalopram or fluoxetine or fluvoxamine or maprotiline or mianserin or paroxetine or quipazine or ritanserin or sulpiride or trazodone or tryptophan or viloxazine or amitriptyline or clomipramine or desipramine or dothiepin or doxepin or imipramine or iprindole or lofepramine or nortriptyline or opipramol or protriptyline or trimipramine or nortriptyline or duloxetine or mirtazapine or venlafaxine).ti,ab.
109.	(cannabis or hemp or marijuana or ganja or hashish or marihuana or bhang or canninoid or cannabinoids or marinol or dronabinol or nabilone or cesamet or dexanabinol or sativex or tetrahydrocannabinolor or nabixamols oromucosal spray).ti,ab.
110.	(neurolept* or antipsychotic*).ti,ab.
111.	neuroleptanalgesia/
112.	exp neuroleptic agent/
113.	exp benzodiazepine derivative/
114.	(diazepam or oxazepam or lorazepam or temazepam or nitrazepam or cloazepam).ti,ab.
115.	or/45-114
116.	44 and 115
117.	random*.ti,ab.
118.	factorial*.ti,ab.
119.	(crossover* or cross over*).ti,ab.
120.	((doubl* or singl*) adj blind*).ti,ab.
121.	(assign* or allocat* or volunteer* or placebo*).ti,ab.

122.	crossover procedure/
123.	single blind procedure/
124.	randomized controlled trial/
125.	double blind procedure/
126.	or/117-125
127.	systematic review/
128.	meta-analysis/
129.	(meta analy* or metanaly* or metaanaly* or meta regression).ti,ab.
130.	((systematic* or evidence*) adj3 (review* or overview*)).ti,ab.
131.	(reference list* or bibliograph* or hand search* or manual search* or relevant journals).ab.
132.	(search strategy or search criteria or systematic search or study selection or data extraction).ab.
133.	(search* adj4 literature).ab.
134.	(medline or pubmed or cochrane or embase or psychlit or psychlit or psychinfo or psycinfo or cinahl or science citation index or bids or cancerlit).ab.
135.	cochrane.jw.
136.	((multiple treatment* or indirect or mixed) adj2 comparison*).ti,ab.
137.	or/127-136
138.	116 and (126 or 137)

#### 1 Cochrane Library (Wiley) search terms

#1.	MeSH descriptor: [Chronic Pain] explode all trees
#2.	((chronic or persist* or idiopathic or atypical or a-typical) near/4 pain):ti,ab
#3.	MeSH descriptor: [Complex Regional Pain Syndromes] explode all trees
#4.	(complex regional pain syndrome* or CRPS or causalgia):ti,ab
#5.	((reflex or sympathetic) near/2 dystroph*):ti,ab
#6.	MeSH descriptor: [Fibromyalgia] explode all trees
#7.	(fibromyalgia* or fibrositis or myofascial pain syndrome):ti,ab
#8.	MeSH descriptor: [Vulvodynia] explode all trees
#9.	(vulvodynia or vestibulodynia or dyspareunia or vulvar vestibulitis or vulvitis):ti,ab
#10.	MeSH descriptor: [Cystitis, Interstitial] explode all trees
#11.	(interstitial near/2 cystitis):ti,ab
#12.	MeSH descriptor: [Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy] explode all trees
#13.	(algodystroph* or sudek or sudeck*):ti,ab
#14.	MeSH descriptor: [Myofascial Pain Syndromes] explode all trees
#15.	(loin pain near (haematuria or hematuria) near syndrome*):ti,ab
#16.	(LPHS or prostatodynia or CPPS or atypic* odontalgia or a-typic* odontalgia or burning mouth syndrome* or phantom tooth pain or neuropathic orofacial pain or "myofascial pain" or MPS):ti,ab
#17.	((pelvic or pelvis) near pain syndrome*):ti,ab
#18.	((non-cardiac or noncardiac) near/3 chest near/3 pain):ti,ab
#19.	(temporomandibular near/3 joint near/3 pain):ti,ab
#20.	((prostate or vulv* or bladder or perineal) near/3 pain):ti,ab
#21.	(functional pain syndrome* or non-cancer pain or noncancer pain):ti,ab
#22.	((pelvic or pelvis or abdominal) near/3 pain near/3 (unknown or un-known or idiopathic or atypic* or a-typic*)):ti,ab
#23.	(or #1-#22)
#24.	MeSH descriptor: [Acetaminophen] explode all trees

#25.	(acetaminophen or paracetamol):ti,ab
#26.	MeSH descriptor: [Analgesics, Opioid] explode all trees
#27.	(non-steroid* or non-narcotic* or analgesic* or pharmacolog*):ti,ab
#28.	MeSH descriptor: [Anti-Inflammatory Agents, Non-Steroidal] explode all trees
#29.	MeSH descriptor: [Analgesics] explode all trees
#30.	(NSAID* or ibuprofen or aspirin or naproxen or fenoprofen or flurbiprofen or ketoprofen or dexketoprofen or dexibuprofen or tiaprofenic acid or diclofenac or aceclofenac or indometacin or mefenamic acid or meloxicam or nabumetone or phenylbutazone or piroxicam or sulindac or tenoxicam or tolfenamic acid or ketorolac or celecoxib or etoricoxib or aceclofenac or acemetacin or diclofenac or etodolac):ti,ab
#31.	(Opioid* or Opiate*):ti,ab
#32.	(morphine or Astramorph or avinza or depodur or duramorph or embeda or infumorph or kadian or m-eslon or morcap or morphia or ms contin or msir or mst or nepenthe or oramorph or rescudose or rms or roxanol or sevredol or statex or zomorph):ti,ab
#33.	MeSH descriptor: [Morphinans] explode all trees
#34.	(opium or omnopon or pantopon or papaveretum):ti,ab
#35.	(Hydromorphone or dihydromorphinone or dilaudid or dimorphone or exalgo or hydmrphn or hydromorph* or hydrostat or hymorphan or laudicon or novolauden or palladone):ti,ab
#36.	(oxycodone or Dazidox or dihydrohydroxycodone or dihydrone or dinarkon or endocodone or eth-oxydose or eucodal or hydroxycodone or m-oxy or oxiconum or oxycdn or oxycone or oxycontin or oxyfast or oxyir or pancodine or percocet or percolone or remoxy or roxicodone or theocodin):ti,ab
#37.	(Dihydrocodeine or contugesic or dhc mundipharma or dicodin or dihydcdn or paracodin or paramol or parzone or rikodeine or tiamon or tosidrin or tuscodin):ti,ab
#38.	(Diamorphine or acetomorphine or diacetylmorphine or diagesil or diamorf or heroin or min-i-jet morphine sulfate or skag):ti,ab
#39.	(Codeine or ardinex or galcodine or isocodeine or methyl morphine or rx 336m or stanley-linctus or stanley-syrup):ti,ab
#40.	Ketobemidone:ti,ab
#41.	(Pethidine or demerol or dolantin or dolargan or dolcontral or dolosal or dolsin or isonipeccain or isonipeccaine hydrochloride or lydol or meperidine or operidine epj or pethilorfan):ti,ab
#42.	(Fentanyl or abstral or actiq or duragesic or fentanest or fentora or fentyl or ionsys or matrifen or nasalfent or onsolis or oralet or phentanyl or sublimaze):ti,ab
#43.	Dextromoramide:ti,ab
#44.	(Piritramide or Dipidolor or dipydolor or Piridolan or Pirium):ti,ab
#45.	(Dextropropoxyphene or darvon or dolene or doloxene or levopropoxyphene or pp-cap or propoxyphene or proxyphen):ti,ab
#46.	(Bezitramide or Burgodin):ti,ab
#47.	(methadone or adanon or althose or amidines or amidone or biodone or diskets or dolophine or Heptadon or metadol or metasedin or methaddict or metharose or Methadose or methdn or methex or phy or phymet or physeptone or pinadone or symoron):ti,ab
#48.	MeSH descriptor: [Pentazocine] explode all trees
#49.	MeSH descriptor: [Naloxone] explode all trees
#50.	(Pentazocine or Fortral or Fortwin or lexir or Talacen or talwin):ti,ab
#51.	MeSH descriptor: [Phenazocine] explode all trees
#52.	(Phenazocine or Prinadol or Narphen):ti,ab
#53.	Oripavine:ti,ab
#54.	(Buprenorphine or '6029-m' or buprenex or buprex or prefin or Suboxone or subutex or temgesic):ti,ab



#55.	(Etorphine or Immobilon or M99):ti,ab
#56.	MeSH descriptor: [Butorphanol] explode all trees
#57.	(Butorphanol or 'bc2627' or beforal or dolorex or moradol or stadol or torbugesic):ti,ab
#58.	(Tilidine or tilidate or Valoron or Valtran or Tilidin):ti,ab
#59.	MeSH descriptor: [Tramadol] explode all trees
#60.	(Tramadol or 'k-315' or ralivia or ryzolt or tramahexal or tramake insts or tramal* or tramedo or ultram or zamadol or zydol):ti,ab
#61.	(Dezocine or Dalgan or 'WY-16225'):ti,ab
#62.	targinact:ti,ab
#63.	MeSH descriptor: [Meptazinol] explode all trees
#64.	(Meptazinol or Meptid):ti,ab
#65.	(Tapentadol or cg5503 or nucynta):ti,ab
#66.	(Remifentanyl or 'gi 87084b' or remifentanyl or ultiva):ti,ab
#67.	MeSH descriptor: [Penicillin G Procaine] explode all trees
#68.	MeSH descriptor: [Procaine] explode all trees
#69.	MeSH descriptor: [Penicillin G] explode all trees
#70.	MeSH descriptor: [Streptomycin] explode all trees
#71.	(Procaine or allocaine or anuject or gerokit or mericaine or novocaine or procaina serra):ti,ab
#72.	alfentanil:ti,ab
#73.	(Alfenta or alfentanyl or fanaxal or limifen or rapifen):ti,ab
#74.	(Dipipanone or co-dydramol or co-codamaol):ti,ab
#75.	MeSH descriptor: [Naltrexone] explode all trees
#76.	naltrexone:ti,ab
#77.	MeSH descriptor: [Ketamine] explode all trees
#78.	(ketamine or inducmina or ketalar or ketanest or calypso or narkamon or keta or velonarcon or ketmin or ketava or ketalin or ketina or brevinaze or keta-hameln):ti,ab
#79.	((topical or intravenous or intra-venous or IV) near/3 (an?esthe* or lidocain* or lignocain* or tetracain* or amethocain* or benzocain* or butamben or dibucain* or pramoxin* or prilocain* or etidocian)):ti,ab
#80.	(emla* or eutectic mixture of local an?esthe* or tetracaine?adrenaline?cocain* or tetracaine?epinephrine?cocain* or lidocaine?adrenaline?tetracain* or lidocaine?epinephrine?tetracain*):ti,ab
#81.	MeSH descriptor: [Anticonvulsants] explode all trees
#82.	(carbamazepine or clobazam or clonazepam or ethosuximide or gabapentin or lacosamide or lamotrigine or levetiracetam or oxcarbazepine or phenytoin or pregabalin or rufinamide or topiramate or valproate or vigabatrin or zonisamide):ti,ab
#83.	(antidepress* or anti-depress*):ti,ab
#84.	serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor*:ti,ab
#85.	selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor*:ti,ab
#86.	(SSRI or SNRI):ti,ab
#87.	(amoxapine or bupropion or citalopram or fluoxetine or fluvoxamine or maprotiline or mianserin or paroxetine or quipazine or ritanserin or sulpiride or trazodone or tryptophan or viloxazine or amitriptyline or clomipramine or desipramine or dothiepin or doxepin or imipramine or iprindole or lofepramine or nortriptyline or opipramol or protriptyline or trimipramine or nortriptyline or duloxetine or mirtazapine or venlafaxine):ti,ab
#88.	(cannabis or hemp or marijuana or ganja or hashish or marihuana or bhang or canninoid or cannabinoids or marinol or dronabinol or nabilone or cesamet or dexanabinol or sativex or tetrahydrocannabinol or nabixamols oromucosal spray):ti,ab

#89.	(neurolept* or antipsychotic*):ti,ab
#90.	MeSH descriptor: [Neuroleptanalgesia] explode all trees
#91.	MeSH descriptor: [Antipsychotic Agents] explode all trees
#92.	(diazepam or oxazepam or lorazepam or temazepam or nitrazepam or cloazepam):ti,ab
#93.	(or #24-#92)
#94.	#23 and #93

## B.2 Clinical search literature search strategy

2 Searches were constructed using a PICO framework where population (P) terms were  
3 combined with Intervention (I) and in some cases Comparison (C) terms. Outcomes (O) are  
4 rarely used in search strategies for interventions as these concepts may not be well  
5 described in title, abstract or indexes and therefore difficult to retrieve. Search filters were  
6 applied to the search where appropriate.

7

Database	Dates searched	Search filter used
Medline (OVID)	1946 – 20 May 2020	Exclusions Randomised controlled trials Systematic review studies Observational studies
Embase (OVID)	1974 – 20 May 2020	Exclusions Randomised controlled trials Systematic review studies Observational studies
The Cochrane Library (Wiley)	Cochrane Reviews to 2020 Issue 5 of 12 CENTRAL to 2020 Issue 5 of 12	None

### 8 Medline (Ovid) search terms

1.	chronic pain/ or pain, intractable/
2.	((persist* or intract* or chronic or longstanding or long standing or longterm or long term or refractory or prolong* or long last* or sustain* or linger* or syndrome*) adj3 pain*).ti,ab.
3.	or/1-2
4.	letter/
5.	editorial/
6.	news/
7.	exp historical article/
8.	Anecdotes as Topic/
9.	comment/
10.	case report/
11.	(letter or comment*).ti.
12.	or/4-11

13.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
14.	12 not 13
15.	animals/ not humans/
16.	exp Animals, Laboratory/
17.	exp Animal Experimentation/
18.	exp Models, Animal/
19.	exp Rodentia/
20.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
21.	or/14-20
22.	3 not 21
23.	limit 22 to English language
24.	Pregabalin/
25.	(gabapentin* or 1 aminomethyl cyclohexaneacetic acid or neurontin or neurotonin or nupentin or gabagamma or gaba-gamma or gralise or horizant or phenibut or anvifen or fenibut or noofen or ci 945 or ci945 or dineurin or gabalept or gabaliquid geriasan or gabatin or go 3450 or go3450 or goe 3450 or goe3450 or kaptin or keneil or pregabalin or lyrica or 3 aminomethyl 5 methylhexanoic acid or 3 isobutyl 4 aminobutyric acid or 3 isobutyl GABA or 3 isobutylgaba or 4 amino 3 isobutylbutyric acid or ci 1008 or ci1008 or pd 144723 or pd144723).ti,ab.
26.	(mirogabalin or atagabalin or 4-methylpregabalin or pd 200390 or pd200390 or ds 5565 or ds5565 or pd 217014 or pd217014).ti,ab.
27.	or/24-26
28.	randomized controlled trial.pt.
29.	controlled clinical trial.pt.
30.	randomi#ed.ti,ab.
31.	placebo.ab.
32.	randomly.ti,ab.
33.	Clinical Trials as topic.sh.
34.	trial.ti.
35.	or/28-34
36.	Meta-Analysis/
37.	exp Meta-Analysis as Topic/
38.	(meta analy* or metanaly* or metaanaly* or meta regression).ti,ab.
39.	((systematic* or evidence*) adj3 (review* or overview*)),ti,ab.
40.	(reference list* or bibliograph* or hand search* or manual search* or relevant journals).ab.
41.	(search strategy or search criteria or systematic search or study selection or data extraction).ab.
42.	(search* adj4 literature).ab.
43.	(medline or pubmed or cochrane or embase or psychlit or psyclit or psychinfo or psycinfo or cinahl or science citation index or bids or cancerlit).ab.
44.	cochrane.jw.
45.	((multiple treatment* or indirect or mixed) adj2 comparison*).ti,ab.
46.	or/36-45
47.	Epidemiologic studies/
48.	Observational study/
49.	exp Cohort studies/
50.	(cohort adj (study or studies or analys* or data)).ti,ab.
51.	((follow up or observational or uncontrolled or non randomi#ed or epidemiologic*) adj (study or studies or data)).ti,ab.

52.	((longitudinal or retrospective or prospective or cross sectional) and (study or studies or review or analys* or cohort* or data)).ti,ab.
53.	Controlled Before-After Studies/
54.	Historically Controlled Study/
55.	Interrupted Time Series Analysis/
56.	(before adj2 after adj2 (study or studies or data)).ti,ab.
57.	or/47-56
58.	exp case control study/
59.	case control*.ti,ab.
60.	or/58-59
61.	57 or 60
62.	Cross-sectional studies/
63.	(cross sectional and (study or studies or review or analys* or cohort* or data)).ti,ab.
64.	or/62-63
65.	57 or 64
66.	57 or 60 or 64
67.	23 and 27 and (35 or 46 or 66)

1 **Embase (Ovid) search terms**

1.	chronic pain/ or pain, intractable/
2.	((persist* or intract* or chronic or longstanding or long standing or longterm or long term or refractory or prolong* or long last* or sustain* or linger* or syndrome*) adj3 pain*).ti,ab.
3.	or/1-2
4.	letter.pt. or letter/
5.	note.pt.
6.	editorial.pt.
7.	case report/ or case study/
8.	(letter or comment*).ti.
9.	or/4-8
10.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
11.	9 not 10
12.	animal/ not human/
13.	nonhuman/
14.	exp Animal Experiment/
15.	exp Experimental Animal/
16.	animal model/
17.	exp Rodent/
18.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
19.	or/11-18
20.	3 not 19
21.	limit 20 to English language
22.	pregabalin/ or gabapentin enacarbil/ or gabapentin/
23.	(gabapentin* or 1 aminomethyl cyclohexaneacetic acid or neurontin or neurotonin or nupentin or gabagamma or gaba-gamma or gralise or horizant or phenibut or anvifen or fenibut or noofen or ci 945 or ci945 or dineurin or gabalept or gabaliquid geriasan or gabatin or go 3450 or go3450 or goe 3450 or goe3450 or kaptin or keneil or pregabalin or lyrica or 3 aminomethyl 5 methylhexanoic acid or 3 isobutyl 4 aminobutyric acid or 3 isobutyl GABA or 3 isobutylgaba or 4 amino 3 isobutylbutyric acid or ci 1008 or ci1008 or pd 144723 or pd144723).ti,ab.

24.	(mirogabalin or atagabalin or 4-methylpregabalin or pd 200390 or pd200390 or ds 5565 or ds5565 or pd 217014 or pd217014).ti,ab.
25.	or/22-24
26.	random*.ti,ab.
27.	factorial*.ti,ab.
28.	(crossover* or cross over*).ti,ab.
29.	((doubl* or singl*) adj blind*).ti,ab.
30.	(assign* or allocat* or volunteer* or placebo*).ti,ab.
31.	crossover procedure/
32.	single blind procedure/
33.	randomized controlled trial/
34.	double blind procedure/
35.	or/26-34
36.	systematic review/
37.	meta-analysis/
38.	(meta analy* or metanaly* or metaanaly* or meta regression).ti,ab.
39.	((systematic* or evidence*) adj3 (review* or overview*)).ti,ab.
40.	(reference list* or bibliograph* or hand search* or manual search* or relevant journals).ab.
41.	(search strategy or search criteria or systematic search or study selection or data extraction).ab.
42.	(search* adj4 literature).ab.
43.	(medline or pubmed or cochrane or embase or psychlit or psychlit or psychinfo or psycinfo or cinahl or science citation index or bids or cancerlit).ab.
44.	cochrane.jw.
45.	((multiple treatment* or indirect or mixed) adj2 comparison*).ti,ab.
46.	or/36-45
47.	Clinical study/
48.	Observational study/
49.	family study/
50.	longitudinal study/
51.	retrospective study/
52.	prospective study/
53.	cohort analysis/
54.	follow-up/
55.	cohort*.ti,ab.
56.	54 and 55
57.	(cohort adj (study or studies or analys* or data)).ti,ab.
58.	((follow up or observational or uncontrolled or non randomi#ed or epidemiologic*) adj (study or studies or data)).ti,ab.
59.	((longitudinal or retrospective or prospective or cross sectional) and (study or studies or review or analys* or cohort* or data)).ti,ab.
60.	(before adj2 after adj2 (study or studies or data)).ti,ab.
61.	or/47-53,56-60
62.	exp case control study/
63.	case control*.ti,ab.
64.	or/62-63
65.	61 or 64

66.	cross-sectional study/
67.	(cross sectional and (study or studies or review or analys* or cohort* or data)).ti,ab.
68.	or/66-67
69.	61 or 68
70.	61 or 64 or 68
71.	21 and 25 and (35 or 46 or 70)

### 1 Cochrane Library (Wiley) search terms

#1.	MeSH descriptor: [Chronic Pain] explode all trees
#2.	MeSH descriptor: [Pain, Intractable] explode all trees
#3.	((persist* or intract* or chronic or longstanding or long standing or longterm or long term or refractory or prolong* or long last* or sustain* or linger* or syndrome*) near/3 pain*):ti,ab
#4.	(or #1-#3)
#5.	MeSH descriptor: [Pregabalin] explode all trees
#6.	(gabapentin* or 1 aminomethyl cyclohexaneacetic acid or neurontin or neurotonin or nupentin or gabagamma or gaba-gamma or gralise or horizant or phenibut or anvifen or fenibut or noofen or ci 945 or ci945 or dineurin or gabalept or gabaliquid geriasan or gabatin or go 3450 or go3450 or goe 3450 or goe3450 or kaptin or keneil or pregabalin or lyrica or 3 aminomethyl 5 methylhexanoic acid or 3 isobutyl 4 aminobutyric acid or 3 isobutyl GABA or 3 isobutylgaba or 4 amino 3 isobutylbutyric acid or ci 1008 or ci1008 or pd 144723 or pd144723):ti,ab
#7.	(mirogabalin or atagabalin or 4-methylpregabalin or pd 200390 or pd200390 or ds 5565 or ds5565 or pd 217014 or pd217014):ti,ab
#8.	(or #6-#7)
#9.	#4 and #8

## B.3 Clinical search literature search strategy

3 Searches were constructed using a PICO framework where population (P) terms were  
4 combined with Intervention (I) and in some cases Comparison (C) terms. Outcomes (O) are  
5 rarely used in search strategies for interventions as these concepts may not be well  
6 described in title, abstract or indexes and therefore difficult to retrieve. Search filters were  
7 applied to the search where appropriate.

8

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Embase (OVID)	1974 – 20 May 2020	Exclusions Randomised controlled trials Systematic review studies Observational studies
The Cochrane Library (Wiley)	Cochrane Reviews to 2020 Issue 5 of 12 CENTRAL to 2020 Issue 5 of 12	None

Database	Dates searched	Search filter used
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1 **Medline (Ovid) search terms**

1.	chronic pain/ or pain, intractable/
2.	((persist* or intract* or chronic or longstanding or long standing or longterm or long term or refractory or prolong* or long last* or sustain* or linger* or syndrome*) adj3 pain*).ti,ab.
3.	or/1-2
4.	letter/
5.	editorial/
6.	news/
7.	exp historical article/
8.	Anecdotes as Topic/
9.	comment/
10.	case report/
11.	(letter or comment*).ti.
12.	or/4-11
13.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
14.	12 not 13
15.	animals/ not humans/
16.	exp Animals, Laboratory/
17.	exp Animal Experimentation/
18.	exp Models, Animal/
19.	exp Rodentia/
20.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
21.	or/14-20
22.	3 not 21
23.	limit 22 to English language
24.	exp Analgesics, Opioid/
25.	exp NARCOTICS/
26.	exp Opiate Alkaloids/
27.	(opiate* or opioid*).ti,ab.
28.	(morphine or Astramorph or avinza or depodur or duramorph or embeda or infumorph or kadian or m-eslon or morcap or morphia or ms contin or msir or mst or nepenthe or oramorph or rescudose or rms or roxanol or sevredol or statex or zomorph).ti,ab.
29.	exp morphinans/
30.	(opium or omnopon or pantopon or papaveretum).ti,ab.
31.	(Hydromorphone or dihydromorphinone or dilaudid or dimorphone or exalgo or hydmrphn or hydromorph* or hydrostat or hymorphan or laudicon or novolauden or palladone).ti,ab.
32.	(oxycodone or Dazidox or dihydrohydroxycodone or dihydron or dinarkon or endocodone or eth-oxydose or eucodal or hydroxycodone or m-oxy or oxiconum or oxycdn or oxycone or oxycontin or oxyfast or oxyir or pancodine or percocet or percolone or remoxy or roxicodone or theocodin).ti,ab.
33.	(Buprenorphine or '6029-m' or buprenex or buprex or prefin or Suboxone or subutex or temgesic).ti,ab.
34.	(Fentanyl or abstral or actiq or duragesic or fentanest or fentora or fentyl or ionsys or matrifem or nasalfent or onsolis or oralet or phentanyl or sublimaze).ti,ab.

35.	(methadone or adanon or althose or amidines or amidone or biodone or diskets or dolophine or Heptadon or metadol or metasedin or methaddict or metharose or Methadose or methdn or methex or phy or phymet or physeptone or pinadone or symoron).ti,ab.
36.	exp *meptazinol/
37.	(Meptazinol or Meptid).ti,ab.
38.	(Tapentadol or cg5503 or nucynta).ti,ab.
39.	(Tramadol or 'k-315' or ralivia or ryzolt or tramahexal or tramake insts or tramal* or tramedo or ultram or zamadol or zydol).ti,ab.
40.	targinact.ti,ab.
41.	(Codeine or ardinex or galcodeine or isocodeine or methyl morphine or rx 336m or stanley-linctus or stanley-syrup).ti,ab.
42.	(Dihydrocodeine or contugesic or dhc mundipharma or dicodin or dihydcdn or paracodin or paramol or parzone or rikodeine or tiamon or tosidrin or tuscodin).ti,ab.
43.	exp *tramadol/
44.	(Pethidine or demerol or dolantin or dolargan or dolcontral or dolosal or dolsin or isonipecain or isonipecaine hydrochloride or lydol or meperidine or operidine epj or pethilorfan).ti,ab.
45.	(Dipipanone or co-dydramol or co-codamaol).ti,ab.
46.	or/24-45
47.	randomized controlled trial.pt.
48.	controlled clinical trial.pt.
49.	randomi#ed.ti,ab.
50.	placebo.ab.
51.	randomly.ti,ab.
52.	Clinical Trials as topic.sh.
53.	trial.ti.
54.	or/47-53
55.	Meta-Analysis/
56.	exp Meta-Analysis as Topic/
57.	(meta analy* or metanaly* or metaanaly* or meta regression).ti,ab.
58.	((systematic* or evidence*) adj3 (review* or overview*)).ti,ab.
59.	(reference list* or bibliograph* or hand search* or manual search* or relevant journals).ab.
60.	(search strategy or search criteria or systematic search or study selection or data extraction).ab.
61.	(search* adj4 literature).ab.
62.	(medline or pubmed or cochrane or embase or psychlit or psyclit or psychinfo or psycinfo or cinahl or science citation index or bids or cancerlit).ab.
63.	cochrane.jw.
64.	((multiple treatment* or indirect or mixed) adj2 comparison*).ti,ab.
65.	or/55-64
66.	Epidemiologic studies/
67.	Observational study/
68.	exp Cohort studies/
69.	(cohort adj (study or studies or analys* or data)).ti,ab.
70.	((follow up or observational or uncontrolled or non randomi#ed or epidemiologic*) adj (study or studies or data)).ti,ab.
71.	((longitudinal or retrospective or prospective or cross sectional) and (study or studies or review or analys* or cohort* or data)).ti,ab.



72.	Controlled Before-After Studies/
73.	Historically Controlled Study/
74.	Interrupted Time Series Analysis/
75.	(before adj2 after adj2 (study or studies or data)).ti,ab.
76.	or/66-75
77.	exp case control study/
78.	case control*.ti,ab.
79.	or/77-78
80.	76 or 79
81.	Cross-sectional studies/
82.	(cross sectional and (study or studies or review or analys* or cohort* or data)).ti,ab.
83.	or/81-82
84.	76 or 83
85.	76 or 79 or 83
86.	23 and 46 and (54 or 65 or 85)

1 **Embase (Ovid) search terms**

1.	chronic pain/ or intractable pain/
2.	((persist* or intract* or chronic or longstanding or long standing or longterm or long term or refractory or prolong* or long last* or sustain* or linger* or syndrome*) adj3 pain*).ti,ab.
3.	or/1-2
4.	letter.pt. or letter/
5.	note.pt.
6.	editorial.pt.
7.	case report/ or case study/
8.	(letter or comment*).ti.
9.	or/4-8
10.	randomized controlled trial/ or random*.ti,ab.
11.	9 not 10
12.	animal/ not human/
13.	nonhuman/
14.	exp Animal Experiment/
15.	exp Experimental Animal/
16.	animal model/
17.	exp Rodent/
18.	(rat or rats or mouse or mice).ti.
19.	or/11-18
20.	3 not 19
21.	limit 20 to English language
22.	exp narcotic analgesic agent/
23.	exp narcotic agent/
24.	exp opiate/
25.	(Opioid* or Opiate*).ti,ab.
26.	(morphine or Astramorph or avinza or depodur or duramorph or embeda or infumorph or kadian or m-eslon or morcap or morphia or ms contin or msir or mst or nepenthe or oramorph or rescudose or rms or roxanol or sevredol or statex or zomorph).ti,ab.
27.	morphine/
28.	(opium or omnopon or pantopon or papaveretum).ti,ab.

29.	(Hydromorphone or dihydromorphinone or dilaudid or dimorphone or exalgo or hydmrphn or hydromorph* or hydrostat or hymorphan or laudicon or novolauden or palladone).ti,ab.
30.	(oxycodone or Dazidox or dihydrohydroxycodone or dihydrone or dinarkon or endocodone or eth-oxydose or eucodal or hydroxycodone or m-oxy or oxiconum or oxycdn or oxycone or oxycontin or oxyfast or oxyir or pancodine or percocet or percolone or remoxy or roxicodone or theocodin).ti,ab.
31.	(Buprenorphine or '6029-m' or buprenex or buprex or prefin or Suboxone or subutex or temgesic).ti,ab.
32.	(Fentanyl or abstral or actiq or duragesic or fentanest or fentora or fentyl or ionsys or matrifen or nasalfent or onsolis or oralet or phentanyl or sublimaze).ti,ab.
33.	(methadone or adanon or althose or amidines or amidone or biodone or diskets or dolophine or Heptadon or metadol or metasedin or methaddict or metharose or Methadose or methdn or methex or phy or phymet or physeptone or pinadone or symoron).ti,ab.
34.	exp *meptazinol/
35.	(Meptazinol or Meptid).ti,ab.
36.	(Tapentadol or cg5503 or nucynta).ti,ab.
37.	targinact.ti,ab.
38.	(Codeine or ardinex or galcodeine or isocodeine or methyl morphine or rx 336m or stanley-linctus or stanley-syrup).ti,ab.
39.	(Dihydrocodeine or contugesic or dhc mundipharma or dicodin or dihydcdn or paracodin or paramol or parzone or rikodeine or tiamon or tosidrin or tuscodin).ti,ab.
40.	exp *tramadol/ or exp *paracetamol plus tramadol/
41.	(Tramadol or 'k-315' or ralivia or ryzolt or tramahexal or tramake insts or tramal* or tramedo or ultram or zamadol or zydol).ti,ab.
42.	(Pethidine or demerol or dolantin or dolargan or dolcontral or dolosal or dolsin or isonipecaïn or isonipecaïne hydrochloride or lydol or meperidine or operidine epj or pethilorfan).ti,ab.
43.	(Dipipanone or co-dydramol or co-codamaol).ti,ab.
44.	or/22-43
45.	random*.ti,ab.
46.	factorial*.ti,ab.
47.	(crossover* or cross over*).ti,ab.
48.	((doubl* or singl*) adj blind*).ti,ab.
49.	(assign* or allocat* or volunteer* or placebo*).ti,ab.
50.	crossover procedure/
51.	single blind procedure/
52.	randomized controlled trial/
53.	double blind procedure/
54.	or/45-53
55.	systematic review/
56.	meta-analysis/
57.	(meta analy* or metanaly* or metaanaly* or meta regression).ti,ab.
58.	((systematic* or evidence*) adj3 (review* or overview*)).ti,ab.
59.	(reference list* or bibliograph* or hand search* or manual search* or relevant journals).ab.
60.	(search strategy or search criteria or systematic search or study selection or data extraction).ab.
61.	(search* adj4 literature).ab.

62.	(medline or pubmed or cochrane or embase or psychlit or psyclit or psychinfo or psycinfo or cinahl or science citation index or bids or cancerlit).ab.
63.	cochrane.jw.
64.	((multiple treatment* or indirect or mixed) adj2 comparison*).ti,ab.
65.	or/55-64
66.	Clinical study/
67.	Observational study/
68.	family study/
69.	longitudinal study/
70.	retrospective study/
71.	prospective study/
72.	cohort analysis/
73.	follow-up/
74.	cohort*.ti,ab.
75.	73 and 74
76.	(cohort adj (study or studies or analys* or data)).ti,ab.
77.	((follow up or observational or uncontrolled or non randomi#ed or epidemiologic*) adj (study or studies or data)).ti,ab.
78.	((longitudinal or retrospective or prospective or cross sectional) and (study or studies or review or analys* or cohort* or data)).ti,ab.
79.	(before adj2 after adj2 (study or studies or data)).ti,ab.
80.	or/66-72,75-79
81.	exp case control study/
82.	case control*.ti,ab.
83.	or/81-82
84.	80 or 83
85.	cross-sectional study/
86.	(cross sectional and (study or studies or review or analys* or cohort* or data)).ti,ab.
87.	or/85-86
88.	80 or 87
89.	80 or 83 or 87
90.	21 and 44 and (54 or 65 or 89)

#### 1 **Cochrane Library (Wiley) search terms**

#1.	MeSH descriptor: [Chronic Pain] this term only
#2.	MeSH descriptor: [Pain, Intractable] this term only
#3.	((persist* or intract* or chronic or longstanding or long standing or longterm or long term or refractory or prolong* or long last* or sustain* or linger* or syndrome*) near/3 pain*).ti,ab
#4.	(or #1-#3)
#5.	MeSH descriptor: [Analgesics, Opioid] explode all trees
#6.	MeSH descriptor: [Narcotics] explode all trees
#7.	MeSH descriptor: [Opiate Alkaloids] explode all trees
#8.	(Opioid* or Opiate*).ti,ab
#9.	(morphine or Astramorph or avinza or depodur or duramorph or embeda or infumorph or kadian or m-eslon or morcap or morphia or ms contin or msir or mst or nepenthe or oramorph or rescudose or rms or roxanol or sevredol or statex or zomorph).ti,ab
#10.	MeSH descriptor: [Morphinans] explode all trees
#11.	(opium or omnopon or pantopon or papaveretum).ti,ab

#12.	(Hydromorphone or dihydromorphinone or dilaudid or dimorphone or exalgo or hydmrphn or hydromorph* or hydrostat or hymorphan or laudicon or novolauden or palladone):ti,ab
#13.	(oxycodone or Dazidox or dihydrohydroxycodone or dihydrone or dinarkon or endocodone or eth-oxydose or eucodal or hydroxycodone or m-oxy or oxiconum or oxycdn or oxycone or oxycontin or oxyfast or oxyir or pancodine or percocet or percolone or remoxy or roxicodone or theocodin):ti,ab
#14.	(Buprenorphine or '6029-m' or buprenex or buprex or prefin or Suboxone or subutex or temgesic):ti,ab
#15.	(Fentanyl or abstral or actiq or duragesic or fentanest or fentora or fentyl or ionsys or matrifen or nasalfent or onsolis or oralet or phentanyl or sublimaze):ti,ab
#16.	(methadone or adanon or althose or amidines or amidone or biodone or diskets or dolophine or Heptadon or metadol or metasedin or methaddict or metharose or Methadose or methdn or methex or phy or phymet or physeptone or pinadone or symoron):ti,ab
#17.	MeSH descriptor: [Meptazinol] explode all trees
#18.	(Meptazinol or Meptid):ti,ab
#19.	(Tapentadol or cg5503 or nucynta):ti,ab
#20.	targinact:ti,ab
#21.	(Codeine or ardinex or galcodeine or isocodeine or methyl morphine or rx 336m or stanley-linctus or stanley-syrup):ti,ab
#22.	(Dihydrocodeine or contugesic or dhc mundipharma or dicodin or dihydcdn or paracodin or paramol or parzone or rikodeine or tiamon or tosidrin or tuscodin):ti,ab
#23.	MeSH descriptor: [Tramadol] explode all trees
#24.	(Tramadol or 'k-315' or ralivia or ryzolt or tramahexal or tramake insts or tramal* or tramedo or ultram or zamadol or zydol):ti,ab
#25.	(Pethidine or demerol or dolantin or dolargan or dolcontral or dolosal or dolsin or isonipecaïn or isonipecaïne hydrochloride or lydol or meperidine or operidine epj or pethilorfan):ti,ab
#26.	(Dipipanone or co-dydramol or co-codamaol):ti,ab
#27.	(or #5-#26)
#28.	#4 and #27

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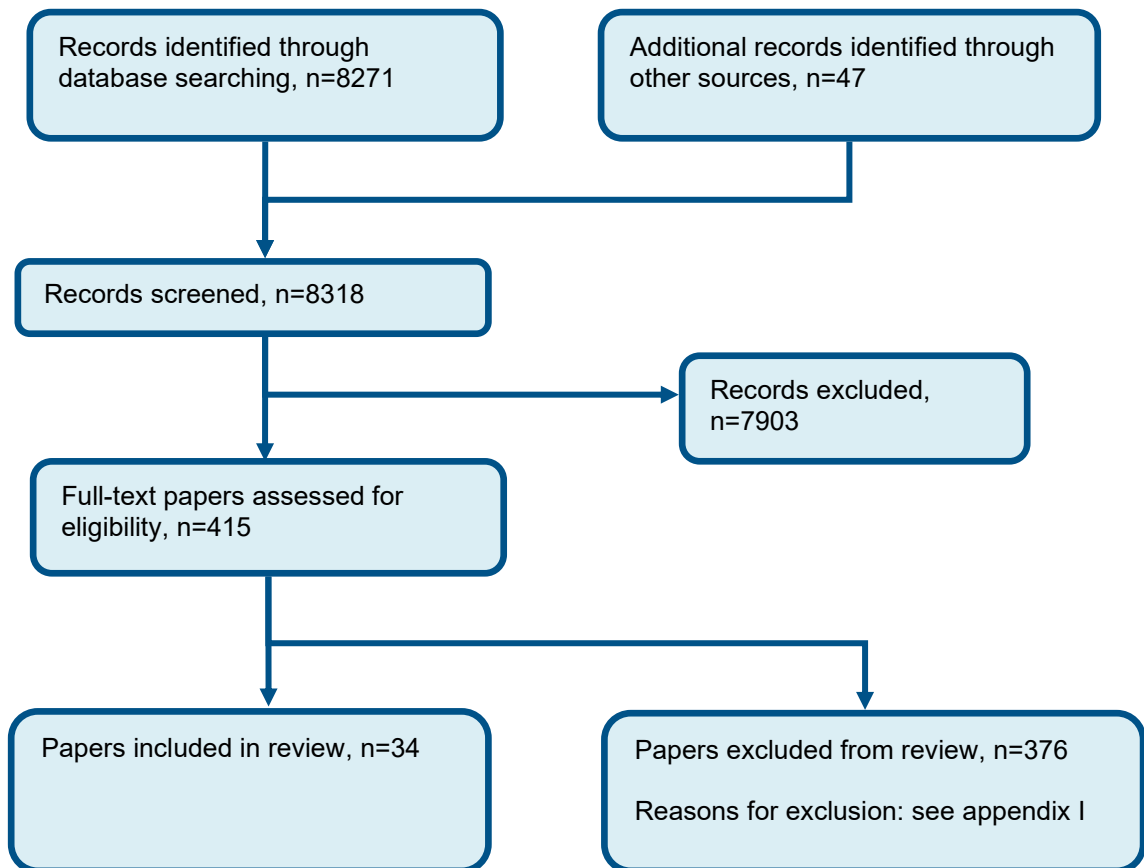
7

8

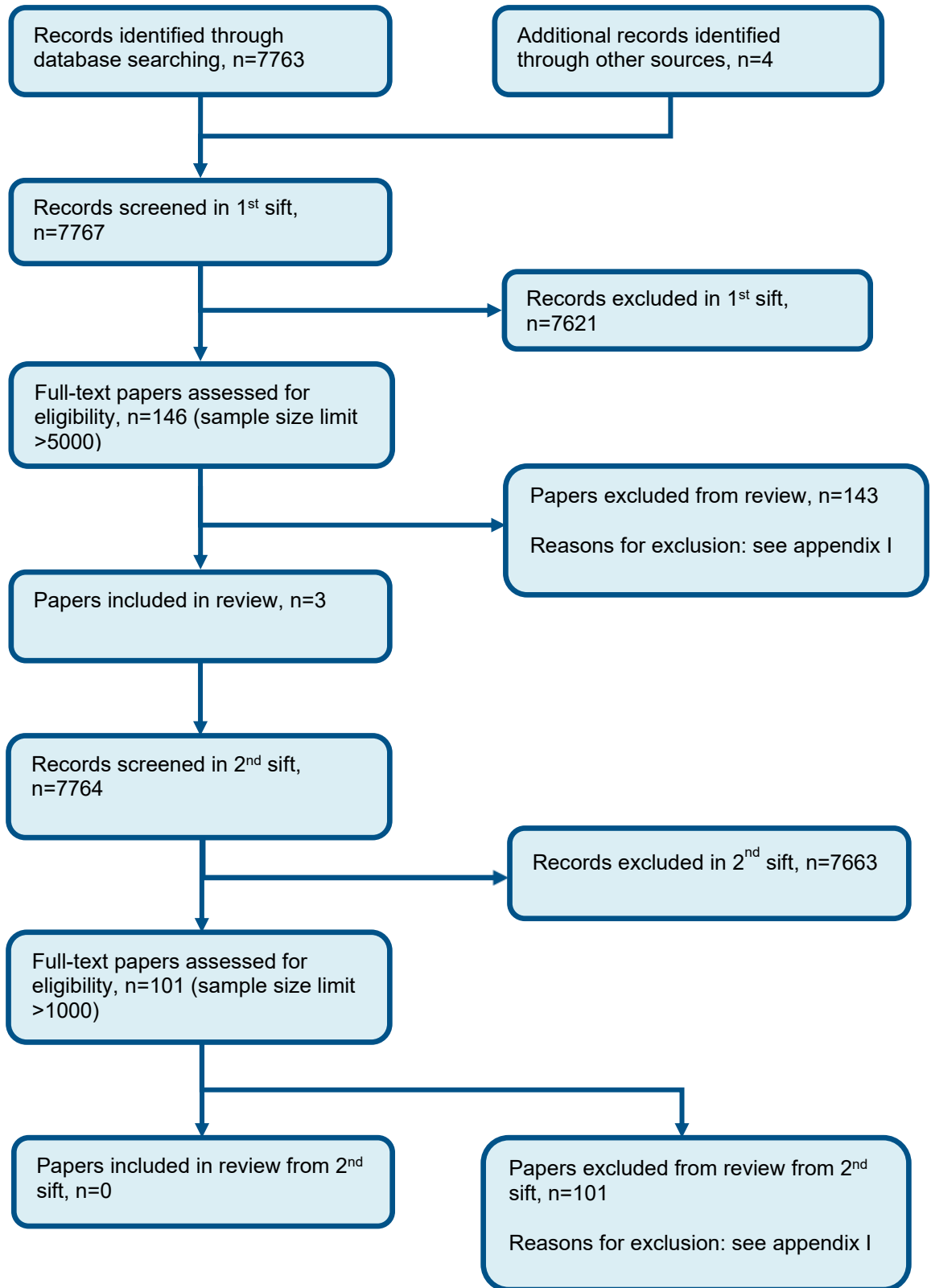
## 9 Appendix C: Clinical evidence selection

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**Figure 1: Flow chart of clinical study selection for the review of Pharmacological management**

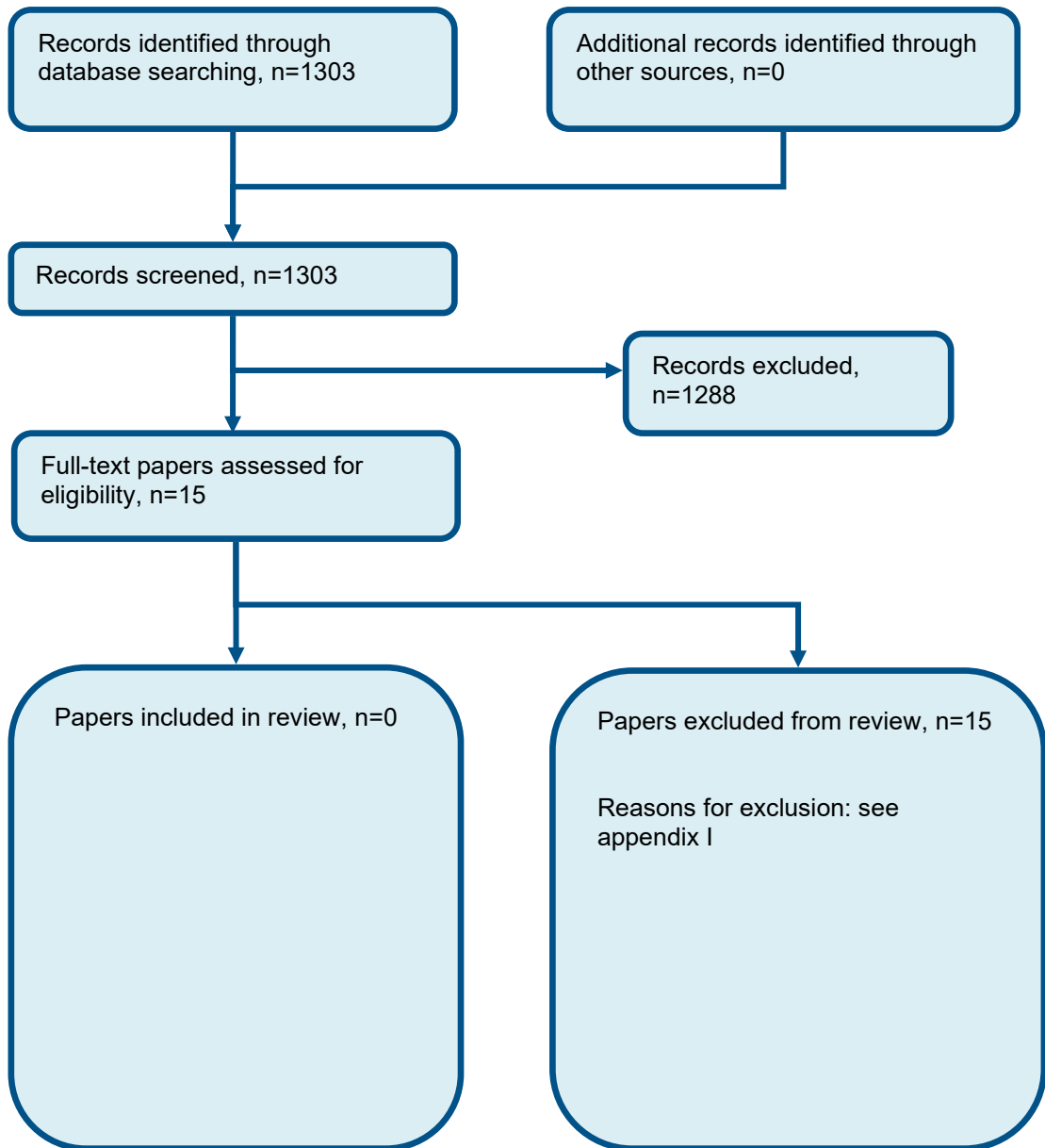


**Figure 2: Flow chart of clinical study selection for the review of long-term safety of opioids for chronic pain**



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**Figure 3: Flow chart of clinical study selection for the review of gabapentinoid safety**



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# 1 Appendix D: Clinical evidence tables

## D.1 Pharmacological management

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Study	Abdelhafeez 2019 <sup>2</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	(n=60)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Egypt; Setting: Ain Shams University, Cairo
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention time: 24 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis: chronic pelvic pain in the absence of any known cause
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Aged between 25-45 years, moderate to severe chronic pelvic pain for longer than 6 months (not just exclusively with menstruation or intercourse and not associated with pregnancy), chronic pelvic pain incompletely relieved by NSAIDs, no obvious pelvic pathology
Exclusion criteria	Pregnancy, breast-feeding, active pelvic infection, hypersensitivity to gabapentin, endometriosis or adhesions, chronic or recurrent GI disease, renal or hepatic mpairment, previous diagnosis of malignancy, chronic alcohol use and tranquilizer use.
Recruitment/selection of patients	From 2016-2018; all women who attended the gynecology outpatient clinic complaining of chronic pelvic pain were approached.
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 32.7(4.91); 30.27(5.32). Gender (M:F): All women. Ethnicity: Not reported
Further population details	People with chronic visceral pain
Extra comments	Mean duration of pain 15(11-21); 18(14-22) months
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=30) Intervention 1: anti-epileptics - gabapentin. Oral 300mg gabapentin tablets initially divided into 900mg per day (3 doses per day), increased by one capsule on a weekly basis (maximum dose 2700mg per day) until sufficient pain relief was achieved, or adverse effects occurred. Women were followed up weekly at the outpatient clinic for 6 weeks to adjust dose and check adverse events. Duration 24 weeks.



Study	Abdelhafeez 2019 <sup>2</sup>
	Concurrent medication/care: Not specified. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=30) Intervention 2: placebo. Matching placebo. Duration 24 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Not specified. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	No funding
<p><b>RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: GABAPENTIN versus PLACEBO</b></p> <p>Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction                      - Actual outcome: 10cm VAS at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 5.12 (SD 0.67); n=27, Group 2: mean 5.9 (SD 0.92); n=23; VAS 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline 5.94(0.73); 6.09(0.54)                      Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 10, Reason: 6 due to adverse events, 4 unclear; Group 2 Number missing: 6, Reason: All due to lack of efficacy                      - Actual outcome: 10cm VAS at 24 weeks; Group 1: mean 3.72 (SD 0.69); n=20, Group 2: mean 5.5 (SD 1.13); n=14; VAS 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: 5.94(0.73); 6.09(0.54)                      Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 10, Reason: 6 due to adverse events, 4 unclear; Group 2 Number missing: 6, Reason: All due to lack of efficacy</p> <p>Protocol outcome 2: Discontinuation due to adverse events                      - Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 24 weeks; Group 1: 6/30, Group 2: 0/30                      Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0</p>	
Protocol outcomes not reported by the study	Quality of life; Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Use of healthcare services; Sleep

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Study	Arnold 2002 <sup>40</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=60)
Countries and setting	Conducted in USA; Setting: Not stated
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention time: 12 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Aged ≥18; Fibromyalgia (ACR);
Exclusion criteria	History of trauma, stroke, seizure, rheumatic disease, arthropathy, psychosis, mania, dementia, drug/alcohol dependence.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Advertisements in rheumatology clinics
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 46 ± 11. Gender (M:F): All female. Ethnicity: 95% white, no further details
Further population details	1. Chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=30) Intervention 1: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors - fluoxetine. Started at 10mg/day and titrated in increments of 10-20mg every 2 weeks to maximum of 80mg/day. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: unreported. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=30) Intervention 2: placebo. dose/quantity, brand name, extra details. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Unreported. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Study funded by industry (Eli Lilly)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: FLUOXETINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: McGill Pain questionnaire: ITT mean change from baseline to endpoint at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -10.8 Score points (SD 12.3); n=25, Group 2: mean -1.8 Score points (SD 11.9); n=26; MIQ 0-78 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Mean baseline score: Fluoxetine = 26 ± 13; Placebo = 27 ± 12

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Reasons not given for withdrawal in each arm (just overall); Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Blinding details: Analyst funded by manufacturer of product; Group 1 Number missing: 11, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy or lost to follow-up; Group 2 Number missing: 12, Reason: Predominantly lack of efficacy leading to withdrawal

**Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life at 12 weeks**

- Actual outcome: FIQ total score: ITT mean change from baseline to endpoint at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -8.6 Total score (SD 14.5); n=25, Group 2: mean 2.9 Total score (SD 13.6); n=26; FIQ 0-100 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline score: Fluoxetine = 42 ± 14; Placebo = 44 ± 14  
Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Blinding details: Analyst funded by manufacturer of product; Group 1 Number missing: 5, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy or lost to follow-up; Group 2 Number missing: 4, Reason: Predominantly lack of efficacy leading to withdrawal

**Protocol outcome 3: Physical function at 12 weeks**

- Actual outcome: FIQ Physical impairment: ITT mean change from baseline to endpoint at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -1.1 (SD 2.3); n=25, Group 2: mean -0.4 (SD 2.1); n=26; FIQ Physical impairment 0-9.99 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: 3.7 ± 2.7 : 3.7 ± 2.7  
Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Blinding details: Analyst funded by manufacturer of product; Group 1 Number missing: 5, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy or lost to follow-up; Group 2 Number missing: 4, Reason: Predominantly lack of efficacy leading to withdrawal

**Protocol outcome 4: Psychological distress at 12 weeks**

- Actual outcome: FIQ anxiety subscale mean change from baseline to endpoint at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -0.3 (SD 2.5); n=25, Group 2: mean 0.7 (SD 2.9); n=26; Comments: Baseline: 4± 2.48 : 4.8 ± 2.25  
Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 5, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy or lost to follow-up; Group 2 Number missing: 4, Reason: Predominantly lack of efficacy leading to withdrawal

- Actual outcome: FIQ depression subscale change from baseline to endpoint at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -0.9 (SD 3.7); n=25, Group 2: mean 1.1 (SD 2.5); n=26; Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: F: 11.8 ± 7.6; P: 13.9 ± 8.86  
Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: 5, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy or lost to follow-up; Group 2 Number missing: 4, Reason: Predominantly lack of efficacy leading to withdrawal

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Discontinuation due to adverse events; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Arnold 2005 <sup>45</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=354)
Countries and setting	Conducted in USA; Setting: Outpatient research centres
Line of therapy	Unclear line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 12 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Female outpatients >18; Fibromyalgia (ACR); BPI average pain severity ≥4
Exclusion criteria	Trauma; rheumatism, arthritic inflammation; auto-immune disease; Mental health disorders other than MDD; treatment refractory in opinion of investigator; prior participation in same-intervention trial; Concomitant regular use of analgesia (excluding acetaminophen and aspirin); antiemetics, sedatives or alternative therapies.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Physician referral or advertisement
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Other: >18 (range or mean unreported). Gender (M:F): All women. Ethnicity: 89.5% Caucasian
Further population details	1. Chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=234) Intervention 1: serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors - duloxetine. 60 mg QD and BID. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None except protocol-permitted interventions  (n=120) Intervention 2: placebo. None reported. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None except protocol-permitted interventions
Funding	Study funded by industry (Eli Lilly)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DULOXETINE versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction at 12 weeks**

- Actual outcome: BPI average intensity of pain at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -2.4 Brief Pain Inventory (SD 2.4); n=230, Group 2: mean -1.16 Brief Pain Inventory (SD 2.3); n=118; Brief Pain Inventory 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: Duloxetine = 6.4 ± 1.5; Placebo = 6.5 ± 1.5

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data – Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement

- High, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low, Comments - Used standard deviations for baseline results, and standard errors for endpoint results. Extracted results for duloxetine are means of two dosage groups: 60 mg QD (n=118) and 60 mg BID (n=116) ; Indirectness of outcome: --, Comments: 2 groups: 60 mg/day and 120 mg/day; Group 1 Number missing: 86, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation; Group 2 Number missing: 52, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation

#### Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: FIQ score at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -16.77 (SD 16.3); n=226, Group 2: mean -8.35 (SD 16.4); n=115; Fibromyalgia Impact total 0-100 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: Duloxetine = 51.95 ± 12.5; Placebo = 53.1 ± 12.4

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data – Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low, Comments - Used standard deviations for baseline results, and standard errors for endpoint results. Extracted results for duloxetine are means of two dosage groups: 60 mg QD (n=118) and 60 mg BID (n=116) ; Indirectness of outcome: --, Comments: 2 groups: 60 mg/day and 120 mg/day;; Group 1 Number missing: 86, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation; Group 2 Number missing: 52, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation

#### Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety) at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: Hamilton depression score at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -3.38 (SD 4.6); n=221 Group 2: mean -2.24 (SD 4.7); n=120; Hamilton depression score, 0-52 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: Duloxetine = 11.3 ± 6.3; Placebo = 11.5 ± 6.5

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data – Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low, Comments - Used standard deviations for baseline results, and standard errors for endpoint results. Extracted results for duloxetine are means of two dosage groups: 60 mg QD (n=118) and 60 mg BID (n=116) ; Indirectness of outcome: --, Comments: 2 groups: 60 mg/day and 120 mg/day; Baseline details: Randomised to two different dosage groups; Group 1 Number missing: 86, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation; Group 2 Number missing: 52, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation

#### Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: Number who discontinued due to adverse events at 12 weeks; Group 1: 52/234, Group 2: 14/120

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data – High, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low, Comments - No baseline value for this subscore was reported. Extracted results for duloxetine are means of two dosage groups: 60 mg QD (n=118) and 60 mg BID (n=116) ; Indirectness of outcome: Comments: 2 groups: 60 mg/day and 120 mg/day; Group 1 Number missing: 86, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation; Group 2 Number missing: 52, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation

#### Protocol outcome 5: Sleep at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: BPI Sleep subscore at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -2.68 (SD 3.1); n=230, Group 2: mean -1.71 (SD 3); n=118; BPI interference: Sleep subscore 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: No baseline scores reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data – Very high, Outcome reporting – Very high, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low, Comments - No baseline value for this subscore was reported. Extracted results for duloxetine are means of two dosage groups: 60 mg QD (n=118) and 60 mg BID (n=116) ; Indirectness of outcome: --, Comments: 2 groups: 60 mg/day and 120

mg/day; Baseline details; Group 1 Number missing: 86, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation; Group 2 Number missing: 52, Reason: Adverse events, lack of efficacy, patient decision, non-compliance, protocol violation

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Physical function; Use of healthcare services

Study	Arnold 2007 <sup>39</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=150)
Countries and setting	Conducted in United Kingdom, USA; Setting: 3 research centres in the US
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention time: 12 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	(1) 18 years of age or over and met the ACR criteria for fibromyalgia (2) score of 4 or more on the average pain severity item of the Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) at screening and randomisation.
Exclusion criteria	Pain from traumatic injury or structural or regional rheumatic disease; rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory arthritis, or autoimmune disease; unstable medical or psychiatric illness; lifetime history of psychosis, hypomania or mania, epilepsy, or dementia; substance abuse in the last 6 months; serious risk of suicide; pregnancy or breastfeeding; unacceptable contraception in those of childbearing potential; patients who, in the opinion of the investigator, were treatment refractory; prior treatment with gabapentin or pregabalin; and treatment with an investigational drug within 30 days of screening. Concomitant medication exclusions consisted of medications or herbal agents with CNS effects, with the exception of episodic use of sedating antihistamines (antidepressants required a 14-day washout period prior to beginning study medication except for fluoxetine, which required a 30-day washout period); analgesics, with the exception of acetaminophen or over-the-counter nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; and unconventional or alternative therapies.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Between 2003 and 2006, no further details
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 48.25 (11.2). Gender (M:F): Define. Ethnicity: 97.3% White, 1.3% African American, 0.65% Asian, 0.65% other.
Further population details	1. Chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=75) Intervention 1: anti-epileptics - gabapentin. Gabapentin or matching placebo was titrated in the following manner: 300 mg once a day at bedtime for 1 week, 300 mg twice a day for 1 week, 300 mg twice a day and 600 mg once a day at bedtime for 2 weeks, 600 mg 3 times a day for 2 weeks, and 600 mg twice a day and 1,200 mg once a day at bedtime(2,400 mg/day) for the remainder of the study beginning at week 6. If a patient could not tolerate 2,400 mg/day, the dosage was reduced to a minimum of 1,200mg/day,

	<p>administered 3 times a day. The study medication dose was stable for at least the last 4 weeks of the therapy phase. During the tapering phase, the dosage was decreased by 300 mg/day until discontinuation. The median dosage at the end point for patients treated with gabapentin was 1,800 mg/day (interquartile range 1,200–2,400 mg/day).</p> <p>Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Acetaminophen or over the counter NSAIDs allowed. Indirectness: No indirectness</p> <p>(n=75) Intervention 2: placebo. Gabapentin or matching placebo was titrated in the following manner: 300 mg once a day at bedtime for 1 week, 300 mg twice a day for 1 week, 300 mg twice a day and 600 mg once a day at bedtime for 2 weeks, 600 mg 3 times a day for 2 weeks, and 600 mg twice a day and 1,200 mg once a day at bedtime(2,400 mg/day) for the remainder of the study beginning at week 6. If a patient could not tolerate 2,400 mg/day, the dosage was reduced to a minimum of 1,200mg/day, administered 3 times a day. The study medication dose was stable for at least the last 4 weeks of the therapy phase. During the tapering phase, the dosage was decreased by 300 mg/day until discontinuation.</p> <p>Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Acetaminophen or over the counter NSAIDs allowed. Indirectness: No indirectness</p>
Funding	Academic or government funding (NIH grant (in addition to lead author receiving consulting fees from numerous pharmaceutical companies))

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: GABAPENTIN versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: Brief pain inventory average pain severity score at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 3.2 (SD 2); n=57, Group 2: mean 4.6 (SD 2.6) n=62; BPI, 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline Gabapentin: 5.7 = 5.7 ±1.4; Placebo =6 ± 1.5

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Quality of life difference at baseline; Group 1 Number missing: 18; Group 2 Number missing: 13 (reasons not specified)

**Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life**

- Actual outcome: Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 26.2 (SD 15.1); n=56, Group 2: mean 37.3 (SD 18.1); n=62; FIQ 0-100 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline Gabapentin: 46.3 ±11.5; Placebo = 47.7 ± 10.3

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Quality of life difference at baseline; Group 1 Number missing: 18; Group 2 Number missing: 13

**Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events**



- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 12 weeks; Group 1: 12/75, Group 2: 7/75  
 Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Quality of life difference at baseline; Group 1 Number missing: 18; Group 2 Number missing: 13

Protocol outcome 5: Sleep

- Actual outcome: Medical Outcomes Study Sleep Problems index score at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 33.4 (SD 19.4); n=57, Group 2: mean 47.8 (SD 20.9); n=62; MOSSP index score 0-100 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: Gabapentin 56 ±16.3; Placebo = 55.8 ± 18.5  
 Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Quality of life difference at baseline; Group 1 Number missing: 18; Group 2 Number missing: 13

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Physical function; Use of healthcare services

Study	Arnold 2010 <sup>37</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=530)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Puerto Rico, USA; Setting: 48 research centres
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 12 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	>18 years old; Fibromyalgia (ACR); BPI ≥4
Exclusion criteria	Psychiatric disorder (other than MDD or GAD); any autoimmune disease; severe liver disease; pregnant/breast feeding; previously judged treatment-refractory in any former duloxetine trial.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Physician referral or public announcements
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 50 (11). Gender (M:F): 36/494. Ethnicity: 77% Caucasian; 15.5% Hispanic
Further population details	1. Chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=263) Intervention 1: serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors - duloxetine. Week 1 = 30mg QD; Week 2 = 60mg QD; Weeks 4 and 8: increased by 30mg in patients with <50% pain reduction (BPI). Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported  (n=267) Intervention 2: placebo. Placebo. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported
Funding	Study funded by industry (Lilly USA)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DULOXETINE versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction at 12 weeks**

- Actual outcome: Brief Pain Inventory at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -2.6 Scale points (SE 0.2); n=188, Group 2: mean -1.7 Scale points (SE 0.2); n=197; BPI average pain interference 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: Duloxetine = 6.0 (2.0); Placebo = 6.0 (2.1)  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Balanced; Blinding details: Start day of intervention was double blinded; Group 1 Number missing: 87, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 41); Group 2 Number missing: 80, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 24)

Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: SF-36 Mental component summary at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 5.1 (SD 0.7); n=263, Group 2: mean 1.3 (SD 0.7); n=263

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Balanced; Blinding details: Start day of intervention was double blinded; Group 1 Number missing: 87, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 41); Group 2 Number missing: 80, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 24)

- Actual outcome: SF-36 Physical component summary at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 6; n=263, Group 2: mean 4.8 (0.6) n=267

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Balanced; Blinding details: Start day of intervention was double blinded; Group 1 Number missing: 87, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 41); Group 2 Number missing: 80, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 24)

Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety) at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: Beck Depression Inventory at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -5.5 (SD 0.5); n=263, Group 2: mean -3.6 (SD 0.5); n=267; Total score 0-63 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: Duloxetine = 16.2 ± 10.4; Placebo = 16.2 ± 10.4

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Balanced; Blinding details: Start day of intervention was double blinded; Group 1 Number missing: 87, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 41); Group 2 Number missing: 80, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 24)

Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: N who discontinued due to adverse events at 12 weeks; Group 1: 41/263, Group 2: 24/267

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Balanced; Blinding details: Start day of intervention was double blinded; Group 1 Number missing: 0, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 41); Group 2 Number missing: 0, Reason: Discontinuation (adverse events n = 24)

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Physical function; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Arnold 2012 <sup>50</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=308)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Argentina, Israel, Mexico, USA; Setting: 29 outpatient research centres
Line of therapy	Unclear line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 12 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	>18; Fibromyalgia (ACR); BPI average pain score $\geq 4$ ; with or without MDD or GAD.
Exclusion criteria	Prior treatment with duloxetine; substance abuse; psychiatric disorder other than MDD or GAD; arthritis; rheumatism; recent surgery. Use of CNS based medication or analgesics except aspirin and some NSAIDs.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Unreported
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): $50 \pm 12$ . Gender (M:F): 95% women. Ethnicity: 87.4% White, the rest unspecified
Further population details	1. Chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=155) Intervention 1: serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors - duloxetine. 30 mg/day. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported, though some concomitant NSAIDs allowed. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=153) Intervention 2: placebo. Daily tablet. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Unreported though some concomitant NSAIDs allowed. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Study funded by industry (Eli Lilly)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DULOXETINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: BPI average pain severity at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -2.14 Least squares mean LOCF (SD 2.4739); n=121, Group 2: mean -1.83 Least squares mean LOCF (SD 2.4739); n=110; BPI 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: Duloxetine =  $6.50 \pm 1.47$  on scale; Placebo =  $6.37 \pm 1.67$  on scale

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 34, Reason: Adverse event, lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation, sponsor decision; Group 2 Number missing: 43, Reason: Adverse event, lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation.

**Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life at 12 weeks**

- Actual outcome: SF-36 mental component score at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 5.56 Least squares mean LOCF (SD 0.85); n=140, Group 2: mean 2.87 Least squares mean LOCF (SD 0.87); n=134; SF-36 Unreported Top=High is good outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 34, Reason: Adverse event, lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation, sponsor decision ; Group 2 Number missing: 43, Reason: Adverse event, lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation.

- Actual outcome: SF-36 physical component score at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 4.75 least squares mean LOCF (SD 0.72); n=140, Group 2: mean 3.91 least squares mean LOCF (SD 0.73); n=134; SF-36 Unreported Top=High is good outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 34, Reason: Adverse event, lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation, sponsor decision ; Group 2 Number missing: 43, Reason: Adverse event, lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation.

**Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety) at 12 weeks**

- Actual outcome: BDI-II at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -5.47 Least squares mean LOCF (SD 0.6); n=140, Group 2: mean -3.91 Least squares mean LOCF (SD 0.61); n=134; BDI 0-21 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: Duloxetine = 15.0 ± 9.64; Placebo = 16.84 ± 11.47

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High; Group 1 Number missing: 34, Reason: Adverse event, lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation, sponsor decision ; Group 2 Number missing: 43, Reason: Adverse event, lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation.

**Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 12 weeks**

- Actual outcome: N who discontinued due to adverse events at 12 weeks; Group 1: 14/135, Group 2: 9/119

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High; Group 1 Number missing: 22, Reason: lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation, sponsor decision ; Group 2 Number missing: 15, Reason: lack of efficacy, lost to follow-up, protocol violation.

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Physical function; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Arnold 2019 <sup>49</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	3 (3 identical multi-centre RCTs) (n=3864 (2 study arms not included in this report [incorrect interventions for this review]. N=1930 included))
Countries and setting	Conducted in Multiple countries; Setting: Multiple centre's worldwide from 2014-2016 (more than 150 sites in total)
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention + follow up: 13 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis: Diagnosis of fibromyalgia
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Widespread pain for at least 3 months and met the ACR criteria for fibromyalgia. (1990). Additional criteria from 2010 ACR must have been met (including WPI score of 7 or more, SSS score of 5 or more, or WPI 3-6 and SSS more than 9). ADPS of 4 or more over the 7 days prior to randomisation (during which time patients were titrated off of existing medication if present). Women of child-bearing potential were only included if they used adequate contraception
Exclusion criteria	Other conditions that explained pain, other conditions that could have interfered with study participation or assessment of safety. Abnormal ECG or lab values, severe or uncontrolled depression, hypersensitivity to study medications.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Not specified
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 49.3(11.5); 50.1(11.3). Gender (M:F): 159:1774. Ethnicity: Majority white (86.8%)
Further population details	People with chronic widespread pain
Extra comments	Mean duration of pain 5.01(6.55); 5.3(6.89) years
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=964) Intervention 1: anti-epileptics - pregabalin. Pregabalin 150mg BID. Washout period before randomisation varied depending on medication that was discontinued. After completion of the washout period, participants entered a titration period aiming for pregabalin 150mg twice daily in the morning and at bedtime. . Duration 13 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Multiple medicines prohibited. Paracetamol allowed for breakthrough fibromyalgia pain, non-pharmacological approaches such as massage also allowed.  (n=966) Intervention 2: placebo. Matching placebo. Duration 13 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Multiple

	medicines prohibited. Paracetamol allowed for breakthrough fibromyalgia pain, non-pharmacological approaches such as massage also allowed.
Funding	Study funded by industry (Multiple pharmaceutical organisations)
<p><b>RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: PREGABALIN versus PLACEBO</b></p> <p>Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction          - Actual outcome: Average daily worst pain score at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean -2.37 (SD 2.39); n=947, Group 2: mean -1.81 (SD 2.39); n=955; ADPS, 0-10, Top=High is poor outcome  <i>Note: study reported change scores and SE separately for the 3 RCTs. SE was converted to SD and mean change scores +/- SD were pooled across the 3 RCTs. Raw data from study:</i></p> <p>Study A          Pregabalin (n=317): -1.9(0.13)          Placebo (n=317): -1.66(0.13)</p> <p>Study B          Pregabalin (n=311): -2.47(0.13)          Placebo (n=315): -1.86(0.13)</p> <p>Study C          Pregabalin (n=319): -2.64 (0.14)          Placebo (n=323): -1.9(0.14)</p> <p>Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low,; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness;          Duloxetine group 56.69 (24.33)          Pregabalin group 45.77 (27.31); Group 1 Number missing: Not reported , Reason: NA; Group 2 Number missing: Not reported, Reason: NA          Comments: Baseline scores: 7.08(1.35); 7.14(1.33)          Overall missing rate only (25.37%)</p> <p>Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life          - Actual outcome: Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean -19.15 (SD 21.54); n=947, Group 2: mean -14.04 (SD 21.2); n=951;          FIQ, 0-100, Top=High is poor outcome  <i>Note: study reported change scores and SE separately for the 3 RCTs. SE was converted to SD and mean change scores +/- SD were pooled across the 3 RCTs. Raw data from study:</i></p> <p>Study A          Pregabalin (n=317): -16.6(1.17)          Placebo (n=316): -13.2(1.17)</p>	

Study B

Pregabalin (n=312): -21.46(1.23)

Placebo (n=313): -13.88(1.2)

Study C

Pregabalin (n=318): -19.42 (1.22)

Placebo (n=322): -15.02 (1.2)

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low,; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: , Reason:; Group 2 Number missing: , Reason: Group 1 Number missing: Not reported , Reason: NA; Group 2 Number missing: Not reported, Reason: NA

Comments: Baseline scores not reported

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Discontinuation due to adverse events; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep



Study	Bidari 2019 <sup>73</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=99)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Switzerland; Setting: An academic outpatient rheumatology clinic, Razi Hospital, Guilan University of Medical Sciences, from May 2016 through March 2017.
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention time: 4 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis: Diagnosed with fibromyalgia based on the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) 2010 criteria.
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Women diagnosed with FM, based on the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) 2010 criteria were considered for study screening. Patients were eligible if they were aged between 18 and 65 and were willing to participate in the study.
Exclusion criteria	Patients were excluded if they had a history of taking certain drugs within a specified period prior to the study enrollment: duloxetine, pregabalin, gabapentin, or antidepressants within the last 12 weeks; monoamine oxidase inhibitors within the last 14 days; muscle relaxants, steroids, opioid analgesics, or benzodiazepines within the last week; injection of analgesics to painful areas within the last month. It was also required that patients: were not pregnant or breast feeding and did not intend to become pregnant during the trial; did not have other comorbid medical conditions that could provoke chronic pain such as malignancies, multiple major surgeries, recent traumatic injuries, or rheumatologic diseases other than FM; did not have concurrent neurological or psychiatric disorders except anxiety/depressive disorders; did not have occupations that demanded high level of concentration or alertness; were not known to have chronic liver diseases, severe renal failure, or uncontrolled narrow-angle glaucoma; and finally, had no history of hypersensitivity to trial medications.
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): Duloxetine group 41.6 (9.02), Pregabalin 43.1 (7.78). Gender (M:F): All women. Ethnicity: Not stated.
Further population details	1. chronic orofacial pain: people with pain conditions other than chronic orofacial pain 2. chronic visceral pain: people with pain conditions other than chronic visceral pain 3. chronic widespread pain: people with pain conditions other than chronic widespread pain 4. complex regional pain syndrome: people with pain conditions other than complex regional pain syndrome
Extra comments	Duration of fibromyalgia, months, median (range): Duloxetine group 24 (0-240) Pregabalin group 36 (0-240)

Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	<p>(n=60) Intervention 1: serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors - duloxetine. Patients initially received duloxetine (30 mg per day). By the time of follow-up clinic visit at week 1, medication was titrated up to 60 mg duloxetine, once daily if the patient was tolerant and no serious adverse events were observed. During the next 3 weeks, there were no clinic visits planned; but, patients could come to the clinic in person for any concern. The study rheumatologist was available to answer patients' phone calls, and medication doses were titrated down in case of new adverse events or intolerance. To monitor adherence to treatment, pill counts were used and were checked with individual patients as well as their caregivers or companions. In case pill counts exceeded the expected numbers, or non-adherence was reported by the patient or caregivers, the issue was explored in detail. Duration 4 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Psychoactive/sedative or pain medications other than trial medications, or cognitive behavioural therapy were not given during the trial. Indirectness: No indirectness</p> <p>(n=39) Intervention 2: anti-epileptics - pregabalin. Patients initially received pregabalin (75 mg per day). By the time of follow-up clinic visit at week 1, medication was titrated up to 75 mg pregabalin, twice daily (150 mg per day) if the patient was tolerant and no serious adverse events were observed. During the next 3 weeks, there were no clinic visits planned; but, patients could come to the clinic in person for any concern. The study rheumatologist was available to answer patients' phone calls, and medication doses were titrated down in case of new adverse events or intolerance. To monitor adherence to treatment, pill counts were used and were checked with individual patients as well as their caregivers or companions. In case pill counts exceeded the expected numbers, or non-adherence was reported by the patient or caregivers, the issue was explored in detail. Duration 4 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Psychoactive/sedative or pain medications other than trial medications, or cognitive behavioural therapy were not given during the trial. Indirectness: No indirectness</p>
Funding	Funding not stated

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DULOXETINE versus PREGABALIN**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: Widespread Pain Index (WPI) score at 4 weeks (post-treatment); Group 1: mean 3.69 (SD 2.68); n=35, Group 2: mean 6.32 (SD 5.01); n=31; Widespread Pain Index (WPI) 0-19 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baselines, mean (SD):

Duloxetine group 7.71 (3.67)

Pregabalin group 8.03 (3.74)

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - Very high, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 25, Reason: Participants withdrew consent (mostly due to adverse events); Group 2 Number missing: 8, Reason: Participants withdrew consent (mostly due to adverse events)

Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life

- Actual outcome: 12-Item Short Form Survey (SF-12) Physical component at 4 weeks (post-treatment); Group 1: mean 54.96 (SD 22.07); n=35, Group 2: mean 47.98 (SD 19.92); n=31; SF-12 Physical component 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baselines, mean (SD):

Duloxetine group 36.96 (23.31)

Pregabalin group 34.88 (16.12)

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - Very high, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 25, Reason: Participants withdrew consent (mostly due to adverse events); Group 2 Number missing: 8, Reason: Participants withdrew consent (mostly due to adverse events)

- Actual outcome: 12-Item Short Form Survey (SF-12) Mental component at 4 weeks (post-treatment); Group 1: mean 63.97 (SD 22.51); n=34, Group 2: mean 56.53 (SD 21.91); n=31; SF-12 Mental component 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baselines, mean (SD):

Duloxetine group 56.69 (24.33)

Pregabalin group 45.77 (27.31)

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - Very high, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Baselines, mean (SD):

Duloxetine group 56.69 (24.33)

Pregabalin group 45.77 (27.31); Group 1 Number missing: 26, Reason: Participants withdrew consent (mostly due to adverse events); Group 2 Number missing: 8, Reason: Participants withdrew consent (mostly due to adverse events)

Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)

- Actual outcome: Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II) score at 4 weeks (post-treatment); Group 1: mean 11.65 (SD 9.56); n=35, Group 2: mean 13.48 (SD 9.28); n=31; Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II) 0-63 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baselines, mean (SD):

Duloxetine group 17 (9.27)

Pregabalin group 20.10 (11.43)

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - Very high, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 25, Reason: Participants withdrew consent (mostly due to adverse events); Group 2 Number missing: 8, Reason: Participants withdrew consent (mostly due to adverse events)

Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: Dropout (due primarily to adverse events) at 4 weeks (post-treatment); Group 1: 25/60, Group 2: 8/39; Comments: Dropouts occurred when participants withdrew consent; the study states that this was mostly due to adverse outcomes.

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - Very high, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: Serious indirectness, Comments: Dropouts occurred when participants withdrew consent; the study states that this was mostly due to adverse outcomes. Numbers of various adverse events were reported as a separate outcome but were not explicitly linked to discontinuation. It should therefore be noted that a minority dropouts could also be due to reasons other than adverse events; Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Physical function ; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Carette 1994 <sup>112</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=126)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Canada; Setting: Outpatient clinics
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 6 months
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Fibromyalgia (ACR); ≥4cm on at least 50% of VAS global fibromyalgia assessment; normal erythrocyte, phosphokinase and TSH tests.
Exclusion criteria	Rheumatism; endocrine or neurologic problems; infections; osseous disorder; previous treatment with study drugs; glaucoma; urinary retention; heart conditions.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Canadian university centres and 2 private practices.
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 44.4 ± 9.97. Gender (M:F): Women: A = 78, C = 78, P = 39. Ethnicity: Not reported
Further population details	1. Chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=84) Intervention 1: tricyclic antidepressants - amitriptyline. 10 mg/day for 1st week, 25 mg/day for 2nd to 12th week, 50 mg/day thereafter. No further details. Duration 6 months. Concurrent medication/care: None  (n=42) Intervention 2: placebo. Sham pills. Duration 6 months. Concurrent medication/care: Sham cyclobenzaprine. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Funding not stated

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: AMITRIPTYLINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction at 3 months

- Actual outcome: McGill Pain Score at 3 months; Group 1: mean 21.7 Pain scale (SD 15); n=76, Group 2: mean 22.8 Pain scale (SD 13.5); n=37; McGill Pain Questionnaire 0-78 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: 28.2 ± 12.5 : 28.6 ± 12.42

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Completer results reported as analysed, but not reported; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Placebo

group was half the size of the amitriptyline group; Group 1 Number missing: 14, Reason: Adverse events, lack of response, other; Group 2 Number missing: 14, Reason: Lack of response, other

Protocol outcome 3: Physical function at 3 months

- Actual outcome: HAQ disability index at 3 months; Group 1: mean 0.6(SD 0.48); n=76, Group 2: mean 0.76 (SD 0.62); n=37; Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: 3.55 ± 1.92 : 3.76 ± 1.98

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Completer results reported as analysed, but not reported; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Placebo group was half the size of the amitriptyline group; Group 1 Number missing: 14, Reason: Adverse events, lack of response, other; Group 2 Number missing: 14, Reason: Lack of response, other

Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety) at 3 months

- Actual outcome: AIMS Depression Scale at 3 months; Group 1: mean 2.55 (SD 1.61); n=78, Group 2: mean 2.93 (SD 1.89); n=36; Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: 3.55 ± 1.92 : 3.76 ± 1.98

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Completer results reported as analysed, but not reported; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Non comparable sample sizes; Group 1 Number missing: 14, Reason: Adverse events, lack of response, other; Group 2 Number missing: 14, Reason: Lack of response, other

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction at 6 months

- Actual outcome: McGill Pain Score at 6 months; Group 1: mean 19.5 Pain scale (SD 13.5); n=78, Group 2: mean 21.6 Pain scale (SD 14.4); n=36; McGill Pain Intensity 0-78 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: 28.2 ± 12.5 : 28.6 ± 12.4

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Completer results reported as analysed, but not reported; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Placebo group was half the size of the amitriptyline group: power imbalance; Group 1 Number missing: 14, Reason: Adverse events, lack of response, other; Group 2 Number missing: 14, Reason: Lack of response, other

Protocol outcome 3: Physical function at 6 months

- Actual outcome: HAQ disability index at 6 months; Group 1: mean 0.53(SD 0.4); n=78, Group 2: mean 0.7 (SD 0.65); n=36; Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: 3.55 ± 1.92 : 3.76 ± 1.98

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Completer results reported as analysed, but not reported; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Placebo group was half the size of the amitriptyline group; Group 1 Number missing: 14, Reason: Adverse events, lack of response, other; Group 2 Number missing: 14, Reason: Lack of response, other

Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety) at 6 months

- Actual outcome: AIMS Depression Scale at 6 months; Group 1: mean 2.41 (SD 1.86); n=78, Group 2: mean 2.57 (SD 1.84); n=36; Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: 3.55 ± 1.92 : 3.76 ± 1.98

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Completer results reported as analysed, but not reported; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Baseline details: Placebo group was half the size of the amitriptyline group; Group 1 Number missing: 14, Reason: Adverse events, lack of response, other; Group 2 Number missing: 14, Reason: Lack of response, other

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life, Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Chappell 2008 <sup>122</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=330)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Germany, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA; Setting: Multi centre in different countries
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 27 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable: None
Inclusion criteria	>18 years; ACR diagnosis of fibromyalgia; With or without major depression
Exclusion criteria	Current/previous duloxetine treatment; Current primary axis 1 diagnosis other than major depression; trauma injury; rheumatism; regional pain syndrome; multiple surgeries; failed back syndrome; arthritis; serious medical illness.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Not reported
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 50 years. Gender (M:F): 22:308 Ethnicity: 91% Caucasian, 1% African, 7% Hispanic
Further population details	Chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=162) Intervention 1: serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors - duloxetine. titration in which they received duloxetine 30 mg QD for one week before receiving duloxetine 60 mg QD for 12 weeks. If at Visit 8 (Week 13) the patient did not have 50% reduction in the Brief Pain Inventory-Modified Short Form (BPI) 27 average pain score, the patient was blindly escalated to 120 mg QD. Duration 27 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported  (n=168) Intervention 2: placebo. Placebo. Duration 27 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Study funded by industry (Eli Lilly)
RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DULOXETINE versus PLACEBO	
Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction at 27 weeks	



- Actual outcome: Brief pain inventory average score at 27 weeks; Group 1: mean -1.62 Least squared means (converted from SE) (SD 2.5); n=101, Group 2: mean -1.13 Least squared means (converted from SE) (SD 2.5); n=103; BPI average severity and interference of pain in last 24 hours 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline measures: Mean (SD): D group: 6.58 (1.52) Placebo: 6.43 (1.48) Baseline reported with SD, and endpoint reported as LSM with SE

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: 61, Reason: Dropout rate high, but balanced. Reasons given for attrition, but method of ITT not explained; Group 2 Number missing: 65, Reason: Patients did not necessarily answer all questions on questionnaires. Imputation data was calculated from existing values, but method not reported.

Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life at 27 weeks

- Actual outcome: SF-36 mental component summary at 27 weeks; Group 1: mean 3.37 Least squared means score (SD converted from SE) (SD 8.1); n=146, Group 2: mean 0.79 Least squared means score (SD converted from SE) (SD 8); n=162; SF-36 Unreported Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baseline measure unreported

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Very high, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - Very high, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 61, Reason: Dropout rate high, but balanced. Reasons given for attrition, but method of ITT not explained. Group 2 Number missing: 65, Reason: Patients did not necessarily answer all questions on questionnaires. Imputation data was calculated from existing values, but method not reported.

- Actual outcome: SF-36 physical component summary at 27 weeks; Group 1: mean 2.61 Least squared means score (SD converted from SE) (SD 8.1); n=146, Group 2: mean 2.06 Least squared means score (SD converted from SE) (SD 8); n=162; Comments: Baseline measures unreported  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Very high, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - Very high, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 61, Reason: Dropout rate high, but balanced. Reasons given for attrition, but method of ITT not explained. Group 2 Number missing: 65, Reason: Patients did not necessarily answer all questions on questionnaires. Imputation data was calculated from existing values, but method not reported.

Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety) at 27 weeks

- Actual outcome: Hamilton depression scale total score at 27 weeks; Group 1: mean -2.04(SD 4.8); n=101, Group 2: mean -1.7 (SD 4.6); n=103; HAMD 0 - 52 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline mean not recorded  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: Baseline scores not reported; Baseline details: Patients with severe major depression disorder were equally distributed.; Group 1 Number missing: 61, Reason: Dropout rate high, but balanced. Reasons given for attrition, but method of ITT not explained. Group 2 Number missing: 65, Reason: Patients did not necessarily answer all questions on questionnaires. Imputation data was calculated from existing values, but method not reported.

Protocol outcome 4: Physical function at 27 weeks

- Actual outcome: FIQ physical function subscale total score at 27 weeks; Group 1: mean -0.02 (SD 2.3); n=101, Group 2: mean -0.06 (SD 2.3); n=103.

Comments: baseline scores not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: Baseline scores not reported; Group 1 Number missing: 61, Reason: Dropout rate high, but balanced. Reasons given for attrition, but method of ITT not explained.

Group 2 Number missing: 65, Reason: Patients did not necessarily answer all questions on questionnaires.

Imputation data was calculated from existing values, but method not reported.

Protocol outcome 5: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 27 weeks

- Actual outcome: N who discontinued due to adverse events at 27 weeks; Group 1: 30/162, Group 2: 19/168

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: 162, Reason: Dropout rate high, but balanced. Reasons given for attrition, but method of ITT not explained.

Group 2 Number missing: 168, Reason: Patients did not necessarily answer all questions on questionnaires.

Imputation data was calculated from existing values, but method not reported.

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Foster 2010 <sup>213</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=66)
Countries and setting	Conducted in USA; Setting: Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester (USA)
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 12 weeks (randomised phase)
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	>3 continuous months of insertional pain/dyspareunia; vulvodynia (Friedrich's criteria); vestibular tender points; age 18 - 50. 4 out of 10 pain intensity.
Exclusion criteria	Other neuropathology or infection of vagina
Recruitment/selection of patients	Unreported
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): placebo: 27.7 (6.3), lidocaine 31.6 (8.4). Gender (M:F): All female. Ethnicity: Predominantly white
Further population details	1. Chronic visceral pain: people with chronic visceral pain
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=33) Intervention 1: topical/IV local anaesthetics - topical lidocaine. 5% cream. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Desipramine placebo tablets. Indirectness: Serious indirectness; Indirectness comment: Concomitant with sham desipramine placebo tablets as part of a 4-arm trial of two interventions.  (n=33) Intervention 2: placebo. Sham 5% lidocaine cream. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Desipramine placebo tablets. Indirectness: Serious indirectness; Indirectness comment: Concomitant with sham desipramine placebo tablets as part of a 4-arm trial of two interventions.
Funding	Academic or government funding (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Clinical Development)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: TOPICAL LIDOCAINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: McGill short form, total score at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -3.1 Absolute changes from baseline to endpoint (SD 6.77); n=27, Group 2:

mean -4.57 (SD 5.86); n=31; McGill short form total score 0-78 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline means: Lidocaine = 12.32; Placebo = 13.74 (no SD reported)

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 5, Reason: Lost to follow-up; dropped out; pregnancy; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: Lost to follow-up; dropped out

Protocol outcome 2: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety) at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: Beck Depression Inventory score at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 0.86 (SD 5.9); n=28, Group 2: mean -1.92 (SD 5.44); n=31; BDI Unreported Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline means: Lidocaine = 21.37; Placebo = 20.9

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 5, Reason: Lost to follow-up; dropped out; pregnancy; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: Lost to follow-up; dropped out

Protocol outcome 3: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 12 weeks; Group 1: 1/33, Group 2: 1/33

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 5, Reason: Lost to follow-up; dropped out; pregnancy; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: Lost to follow-up; dropped out

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Foster 2010 <sup>214</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=47)
Countries and setting	Conducted in USA; Setting: Gynaecology clinics in Lothian and Grampian
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 6 months
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Bladder pain/discomfort and urinary frequency; symptoms for >6 weeks; treatment naive.
Exclusion criteria	Heart, liver or neuralgic disease; glaucoma; cancer
Recruitment/selection of patients	Gynaecology clinics
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 38. Gender (M:F): Women = 115 (85%) :111 (82%). Ethnicity: 100% Caucasian
Further population details	1. Chronic visceral pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=135) Intervention 1: tricyclic antidepressants - amitriptyline. For three weeks: 10 - 25 mg/day stepped. Titrated to 50 mg if required. Thereafter: up to 75 mg/day. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=136) Intervention 2: placebo. Once a day with sham titration. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Other (Chief Scientist's Office of Scotland)
<p><b>RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: AMITRIPTYLINE versus PLACEBO</b></p> <p>Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction at 12 weeks                      - Actual outcome: VAS pain score at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean -2.6 (SD 2.5); n=111, Group 2: mean -2.3 (SD 2.4); n=119; Pain score 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline 5.8 ± 1.5 : 6.0 ± 1.8</p> <p>Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: 23; Group 2 Number missing: 17, reasons not specified</p>	

Protocol outcome 2: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 12 weeks

- Actual outcome: N discontinued adverse events at 12 weeks; Group 1: 7/135, Group 2: 2/136

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	GaPP1 trial: Lewis 2016 <sup>335</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=47)
Countries and setting	Conducted in United Kingdom; Setting: 2 centres in Scotland
Line of therapy	Not applicable
Duration of study	Intervention time: 6 months
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Method of assessment /diagnosis not stated: NA
Stratum	Overall: NA
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable: NA
Inclusion criteria	Between 18-50 years old, pelvic pain that was located within the true pelvis or between and below anterior iliac crests for greater than 6 months, associated with functional disability and no obvious pelvic pathology at laparoscopy. Required to be using contraception
Exclusion criteria	Known pelvic pathology such as endometriosis or ovarian cyst, already taking gabapentin or pregabalin, due to undergo surgery, history of renal impairment, allergic to gabapentin, breast feeding or were pregnant of planning pregnancy in the next six months
Recruitment/selection of patients	Not reported
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Range: 18-50 years . Gender (M:F): All women. Ethnicity: Caucasian
Further population details	1. Chronic visceral pain: people with chronic visceral pain
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=22) Intervention 1: anti-epileptics - gabapentin. 300mg gabapentin daily increased in 300mg increments each week until 50% pain reduction or side effects, up to a maximum dose of 2700mg. Duration 6 months. Concurrent medication/care: not reported. Indirectness: No indirectness; Indirectness comment: NA  (n=25) Intervention 2: placebo. equivalent dose in placebo tablets. Duration 6 months. Concurrent medication/care: not reported. Indirectness: No indirectness; Indirectness comment: NA
Funding	Academic or government funding (project grant from the Chief Scientist's Office of Scotland )
<b>RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: GABAPENTIN versus PLACEBO</b>	
Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction - Actual outcome: VAS (how strong was the pain during the past 4 weeks on average?) at 6 months ; Group 1: mean 3.6 (SD 2.4); n=13, Group 2: mean	

4.5 (SD 2.3); n=12; VAS not reported Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: not reported ; Group 2 Number missing: 13, Reason: not reported

- Actual outcome: VAS (how strong was the pain during the past 4 weeks on average?) at 3 months ; Group 1: mean 4.2 (SD 2.7); n=13, Group 2: mean 5.1 (SD 2.3); n=13; VAS not reported Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: not reported ; Group 2 Number missing: 12, Reason: not reported

Protocol outcome 2: Physical function

- Actual outcome: Pain Disability Questionnaire (function) at 3 months ; Group 1: mean 29.4 (SD 21); n=13, Group 2: mean 23 (SD 16.5); n=12; Pain Disability Questionnaire (function) not reported Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: not reported ; Group 2 Number missing: 12, Reason: not reported

- Actual outcome: Pain Disability Questionnaire (function) at 6 months ; Group 1: mean 23.9 (SD 25.3); n=13, Group 2: mean 20.3 (SD 14.8); n=12; Pain Disability Questionnaire (function) not reported Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: not reported ; Group 2 Number missing: 13, Reason: not reported

Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)

- Actual outcome: Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (anxiety) at 3 months ; Group 1: mean 8.1 (SD 5.4); n=13, Group 2: mean 8.2 (SD 4.2); n=13; Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale 0-21 Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: not reported ; Group 2 Number missing: 12, Reason: not reported

- Actual outcome: Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (anxiety) at 6 months ; Group 1: mean 7.5 (SD 5.7); n=13, Group 2: mean 9.8 (SD 5.3); n=12; Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (anxiety) 0-21 Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: not reported ; Group 2 Number missing: 13, Reason: not reported

- Actual outcome: Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (depression) at 3 months ; Group 1: mean 5.5 (SD 3.9); n=13, Group 2: mean 4.7 (SD 4.5); n=13; Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale 0-21 Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: not reported ; Group 2 Number missing: 12, Reason: not reported



- Actual outcome: Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (depression) at 6 months ; Group 1: mean 5.2 (SD 4.9); n=13, Group 2: mean 4.9 (SD 4); n=12; Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (depression) 0-21 Top=High is poor outcome  
 Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: not reported ; Group 2 Number missing: 13, Reason: not reported

Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: withdrawal due to side effects at 6 months ; Group 1: 4/22, Group 2: 3/25  
 Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA; Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Ginsberg 1996 <sup>232</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=51)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Belgium; Setting: Outpatient clinics
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 8 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Unclear method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Fibromyalgia (ACR); history of widespread pain $\geq 3$ months; 11-18 tender point sites.
Exclusion criteria	Rheumatism; pregnancy (or potential for); lactation; glaucoma; risk of urinary retention; history of heart disease; anti-depressants; sleeping medication; analgesics (except paracetamol); Receipt of study drug within 6 months prior to study; Vitamin D or magnesium drugs.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Rheumatology clinics in Belgium
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 46 $\pm$ 1. Gender (M:F): 20:4; 18:4 (completers). Ethnicity: Caucasian 22:22; Black 1:0
Further population details	1. Chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=26) Intervention 1: tricyclic antidepressants - amitriptyline. Sustained release capsules 25 mg. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=24) Intervention 2: placebo. Sham pills from same supplier as experimental drugs. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Funding not stated

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: AMITRIPTYLINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: VAS evaluation of pain at 8 weeks; Group 1: mean 3.9 VAS pain score (SD 2.3); n=24, Group 2: mean 6.8 VAS pain score (SD 1.8); n=22; VAS pain score 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: 7.3  $\pm$  1.4 : 7.1  $\pm$  1.4

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness

of outcome: No indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: 2, Reason: Lost to follow up; Group 2 Number missing: 3, Reason: Lost to follow up

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Discontinuation due to adverse events; Use of healthcare services , Sleep

Study	Heckmann 2012 <sup>274</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=20)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Germany; Setting: Dental surgery
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 6 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Burning mouth syndrome diagnosis
Exclusion criteria	Diabetes, hepatitis, jaundice, liver problems, vitamin B-12 deficiency, infections, sleep apnoea, glaucoma, asthma, Parkinson's, Mental health problems.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Erlangen University Dental School referrals.
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 63.95 ± 10.76. Gender (M:F): Not reported. Ethnicity: Not reported
Further population details	1. chronic orofacial pain
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=10) Intervention 1: Benzodiazepines - clonazepam. 0.5 mg/day. Duration 6 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported  (n=10) Intervention 2: placebo. Supply of 63 tablets. Duration 6 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported
Funding	Funding not stated

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: CLONAZEPAM versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: VAS pain rating at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 4.5 (SD 2.4); n=10, Group 2: mean 4.5 (SD 1.8); n=10; VAS pain rating 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: 7.4 ± 2.4 : 6.0 ± 2.2 :

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: Not reported ; Group 2 Number missing: Not reported

Protocol outcome 2: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)  
- Actual outcome: Beck Depression Index at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 0.6 (SD 0.8); n=10, Group 2: mean 0.8 (SD 0.9); n=10; BDI 0-3 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: 0.5 ± 0.8 : 0.6 ± 1.1  
Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep, Discontinuation due to adverse events

Study	Heymann 2001 <sup>276</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=118)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Brazil; Setting: San Paulo clinic
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 8 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Women with fibromyalgia (ACR) who were naive to the interventions; 6 months clear of any other study; 4 weeks clear of analgesic narcotics, anti-depressants, neuroleptics and anxiolytics. Acetaminophen was permitted.
Exclusion criteria	Pregnant, in physical rehab; heart arrhythmia; renal or hepatic disease; glaucoma; urinary retention; hyperthyroidism; inflammation.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Federal University of São Paulo outpatients
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (range): 53.4 (31-75) : 48.8 (18-76) : 49.4 (22-75). Gender (M:F): All women. Ethnicity: Caucasian: n = 26 : n = 21 : n = 26 Remainder = 'non-Caucasian'
Further population details	1. Chronic widespread pain subgroup
Extra comments	Fibromyalgia
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=40) Intervention 1: tricyclic antidepressants - amitriptyline. 25 mg QD. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Some concomitant medication allowed  (n=38) Intervention 2: tricyclic antidepressants - nortriptyline. 25 mg QD. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Some concomitant drugs allowed  (n=40) Intervention 3: placebo. Sham tablets. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Some concomitant drugs allowed
Funding	Funding not stated

RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: AMITRIPTYLINE versus PLACEBO

Protocol outcome 1: Quality of life

- Actual outcome: FIQ at 8 weeks; Group 1: mean 39.97 (SD 4.16); n=37, Group 2: mean 67.45 (SD 4.34); n=36; Fibromyalgia questionnaire 0-100  
Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline 63.17 ± 4.16; 67.45 ± 4.34

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 3; Group 2 Number missing: 7 (reasons not reported)

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: Number of responders on scale of global improvement (score of great or moderate improvement) at 8 weeks; Group 1:25/40 Group 2: 13/33

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding -Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness- ; Group 1 Number missing: 3; Group 2 Number missing: 7(reasons not reported)

RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: NORTRIPTYLINE versus PLACEBO

Protocol outcome 1: Quality of life

- Actual outcome: FIQ at 8 weeks; Group 1: mean 48.78 (SD 7.28); n=36, Group 2: mean 51.68 (SD 7.98); n=33; Fibromyalgia questionnaire 0-100  
Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: 67.30 ± 4.68 : 67.45 ± 4.34

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: 2; Group 2 Number missing: 7 (reasons not reported)

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: Number of responders on scale of global improvement (score of great or moderate improvement) Group 1:20/38, Group 2: 13/33

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: 3; Group 2 Number missing: 7 (reasons not reported)

Note: nortriptyline and amitriptyline arms combined in review analysis

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Kimos 2007 <sup>310</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	(n=50)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Canada; Setting: TMD/Orofacial pain clinic, department of Dentistry at University of Alberta
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention time: 12 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	(1) Masticatory muscle pain for at least 6 months (2) not attributable to recent acute trauma or previous infection or inflammation (3) moderate to severe baseline score of 50 mm or greater using a 100mm (4) Pain upon palpation in the temporalis and masseter.
Exclusion criteria	(1) inflammatory TMD (2) pregnant or nursing (3) epilepsy, cardiac, renal or hepatic disorders (4) history of intolerance to gabapentin or any of the components (5) dental or periodontal disease or neuropathic facial pain (6) patients wearing occlusal splint appliance for less than 6 months
Recruitment/selection of patients	Female subjects chosen because TMD are prevalent in this population
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 33.58 years. Gender (M:F): All female. Ethnicity: Not stated
Further population details	1. chronic orofacial pain: people with chronic orofacial pain (Masticatory muscle pain) subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=25) Intervention 1: anti-epileptics - gabapentin. Administered until adequate pain control was reached or unacceptable side effects limited titration. Patients were started on 300mg per day and the dose was increased by 300mg every 3 days until pain was controlled. The maximum dose was 4200mg per day. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Acetaminophen 500mg was allowed as a rescue drug where subjects needed pain control between doses, or if the study medication was not having an analgesic effect. Maximum every 6 hours, 4000mg maximum daily dosage. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=25) Intervention 2: placebo. Placebo. Duration 12 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Acetaminophen 500mg as rescue therapy. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Academic or government funding (University of Alberta. Pharmascience Inc. donated the gabapentin used in the study)



RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: GABAPENTIN versus PLACEBO

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: VAS pain reduction (%) at 12 weeks; Group 1: mean 51.4 (SD 38.8); n=24, Group 2: mean 24.3 (SD 43.54); n=20

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: 33% vs 25% taking SSRIs; Group 1 Number missing: 6; Group 2 Number missing: 8 (reasons not reported)

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Discontinuation due to adverse events; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Lee 2005 <sup>331</sup>
Study type	RCT ( randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=14)
Countries and setting	Conducted in United Kingdom; Setting: Unspecified research centre
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 13 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Aged between 18-65 years, exclusion of bacterial prostatitis and chlamydia.
Exclusion criteria	Participants with urethritis, symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia or significant abnormalities on baseline bloods were excluded. Other exclusion criteria were current treatment with an antidepressant or anxiolytic drug, history of seizures, or any history of hypersensitivity or intolerance to SSRI
Recruitment/selection of patients	Not reported
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Range: 18-65. Gender (M:F): All men. Ethnicity: Not reported
Further population details	1. chronic visceral pain
Extra comments	Men with symptoms of chronic pelvic pain syndrome
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=7) Intervention 1: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors - sertraline. 50 mg/day. Duration 13 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported  (n=7) Intervention 2: placebo. 50mg. Duration 13 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported
Funding	Academic or government funding (MSSVD paid for the drugs used)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: SERTRALINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)

- Actual outcome: HAD anxiety score at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean -0.9 'SD' calculated from p-value instead because no SDs reported. (SD 3.5); n=6, Group 2: mean -2.5 'SD' field is p-value instead because no SDs reported. (SD 3.5); n=7; HAD anxiety 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: 7.6 : 8.2

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - high, Measurement - low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness; Baseline details: Inferred from Mann Whitney U test result; Group 1 Number missing: 1, Reason: Feeling 'spaced out'; Group 2 Number missing: 0, Reason: NA  
 - Actual outcome: HAD depression score at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean -1.6 'SD' calculated from p-value instead because no SDs reported. (SD 3); n=7, Group 2: mean -0.7 'SD' field is p-value instead because no SDs reported. (SD 3); n=7; HADS depression 0-100 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline: 4.7 : 4.5

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - high, Measurement - low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness; Baseline details: Inferred from Mann Whitney U test result; Group 1 Number missing: 1, Reason: Feeling 'spaced out'; Group 2 Number missing: 0, Reason: NA

Protocol outcome 2: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: Prostatic symptom severity at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean -6.1 'SD' calculated from p-value instead because no SDs reported. (SD 10.05); n=7, Group 2: mean -2 'SD' field is p-value instead because no SDs reported. (SD 10.05); n=7; Baseline: SSRI: 23.4; Placebo: 28

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - high, Measurement - low, Crossover - Low, Comments - No SDs but study included as has been used in RM meta-analysis; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness; Baseline details: Inferred from Mann Whitney U test result; Group 1 Number missing: 1, Reason: Feeling 'spaced out'; Group 2 Number missing: 0, Reason: NA

Protocol outcome 3: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 13 weeks; Group 1: 0/7 Group 2: 1/7

Risk of bias: All domain – Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - No SDs but study included as has been used in RM meta-analysis.; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Baseline details: Inferred from Mann Whitney U test result; Group 1 Number missing: 1, Reason: Feeling 'spaced out'; Group 2 Number missing: 0, Reason: NA

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Luo 2009 <sup>346</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=80)
Countries and setting	Conducted in China; Setting: Outpatients clinic of Tonji University Hospital
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 8 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Partially adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	6 month duration of disease (persistent somatoform pain disorder defined by pain which cannot be fully explained by a physiological process or physical disorder).
Exclusion criteria	Depressive symptoms prior to pain, unstable or severe illness, pregnant, taking anti-depressants.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Not reported
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Range: 18-65. Gender (M:F): 34:46. Ethnicity: Chinese
Further population details	Subgroups unclear
Extra comments	Met ICD-10 diagnostic criteria for somatoform pain disorder
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=40) Intervention 1: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors - fluoxetine. 20 mg/day. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported  (n=40) Intervention 2: placebo. Manufactured by the hospital's pharmacy rather than by pharmaceutical firm. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported
Funding	Other (Shanghai Science and Technology Committee)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: FLUOXETINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: Medical Outcomes Study Pain Measures (MOSPM)

at 8 weeks; Group 1: mean 33.08 (SD 18.81); n=40, Group 2: mean 55.33 (SD 25.44); n=40; MOSPM 0-75 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: 29.53 ± 22.76 : 55.33 ± 25.44

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - Very high, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No attrition rate reported. Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness; Baseline details: Mann Whitney test; Blinding details: Placebo not manufactured by same firm as the intervention which may have 'unblinded' some participants; Group 1 Number missing, Reason: Unclear whether any data missing or not; Group 2 Number missing, Reason: Unclear whether any data missing or not

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Maarrawi 2018 <sup>349</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=220)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Lebanon; Setting: Hotel-Dieu de France Hospital, Beirut
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 2 months
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Partially adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Idiopathic chronic neck pain 15 days/month for ≥3 months; no previous trauma or neurologic disorder except tension headache, trismus or perturbed sleep.
Exclusion criteria	Neurologic disorder; cervical disc disease; migraine, trauma, major depression; analgesic abuse history; intolerance to study drug class; mental health problems; glaucoma; heart problems; constipation; drugs for CNP other than NSAIDs during month prior to study; pregnancy; prostatic symptoms.
Recruitment/selection of patients	From Hotel-Dieu de France
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Range: 18-75. Gender (M:F): Not reported. Ethnicity: Not reported, but infer Lebanese
Further population details	1. chronic orofacial pain subgroup
Extra comments	Idiopathic chronic neck pain (CNP)
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=166) Intervention 1: tricyclic antidepressants - amitriptyline. 5 mg/day Duration 2 months. Concurrent medication/care: Allowed NSAIDs  (n=166) Intervention 2: placebo. Sham pill. Duration 2 months. Concurrent medication/care: Allowed NSAIDs
Funding	Academic or government funding (Saint Joseph Council of Research, Beirut University)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: AMITRIPTYLINE versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: VAS pain scale at 2 months; Group 1: mean 33.08 (SD 18.81) Group 2: mean 55.31 Percent change in ten-point VAS score (SD 25.44); n=108, Scale 0-10, high = poor outcome, baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcome 3: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: N who discontinued due to side effects at 2 months; Group 1: 8/162, Group 2: 0/158

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcome 2: Physical function

- Actual outcome: Neck Pain Disability Index % improvement at 2 months; Group 1: mean 42.22 (SD 15.5); n=104, Group 2: mean 13.69 (SD 9.5); n=108, Comment: baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcome 2: Sleep

- Actual outcome: BIS % improvement at 2 months; Group 1: mean 34.89 (SD 22.98); n=104, Group 2: mean 6.02 (SD 12.38); n=108

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Use of healthcare services

Study	Mahagna 2016 <sup>353</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=64)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Israel; Setting: Medical centres in Israel
Line of therapy	2nd line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 6 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	FMS (ACR); women aged 18-75 years
Exclusion criteria	Pregnancy/breast-feeding; heart disease; neoplasticism; rheumatism, GI bleeding; renal failure; hypertension; significant disability. No other NSAID use.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Not reported
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 50 ± 11.57. Gender (M:F): All women. Ethnicity: Not reported
Further population details	1. chronic widespread pain: subgroup
Extra comments	Taking established fibromyalgia treatments concomitantly: Anti-depressants (15:14); anti-epileptics (1:2); opiates (1:0).
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=32) Intervention 1: NSAID - etoricoxib. 90 mg/day. Duration 6 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Patient's established treatment (except NSAIDs). Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=32) Intervention 2: placebo. Sham etoricoxib. Duration 6 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Patient's established treatment (except NSAIDs). Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Study funded by industry (MSD)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: ETORICOXIB versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: Brief Pain Inventory at 6 weeks; Group 1: 9/32, Group 2: 9/32; Comments: N with decrease in BPI score >30% at endpoint

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - high, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low,



Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: No baseline score reported.; Blinding details: More women in experimental group took concomitant opiates and anti-depressants than in placebo group; Group 1 Number missing: 6, Reason: Withdrawal, discontinuation, adverse events; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: Discontinuation

Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life

- Actual outcome: SF-36 Physical component at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 35.2 (SD 16.8); n=32, Group 2: mean 35.6 (SD 19); n=32

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - high, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Blinding details: More women in experimental group took concomitant opiates and anti-depressants than in placebo group; Group 1 Number missing: 6, Reason: Withdrawal, discontinuation, adverse events; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: Discontinuation

- Actual outcome: SF-36 Mental component at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 46.5 (SD 21); n=32, Group 2: mean 48.4(SD 19); n=32

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Blinding details: More women in experimental group took concomitant opiates and anti-depressants than in placebo group; Group 1 Number missing: 6, Reason: Withdrawal, discontinuation, adverse events; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: Discontinuation

Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress

- Actual outcome: Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 10.6 (SD 6); n=32, Group 2: mean 9.9 (SD 6.2), n=32,

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - high, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Blinding details: More women in experimental group took concomitant opiates and anti-depressants than in placebo group; Group 1 Number missing: 6, Reason: Withdrawal, discontinuation, adverse events; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: Discontinuation

Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: N discontinued due to AEs at 6 weeks; Group 1: 2/32, Group 2: 0/32

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - high, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - ; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: No baseline score reported.; Blinding details: More women in experimental group took concomitant opiates and anti-depressants than in placebo group; Group 1 Number missing: 0, Reason: Withdrawal, discontinuation, adverse events; Group 2 Number missing: 0, Reason: Discontinuation

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Physical function; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Murakami 2015 <sup>402</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	(n=393)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Japan; Setting: 42 outpatient hospitals/clinics in Japan
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention time: 14 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis:
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Male and female outpatients aged between 20 and 75 years who met the ACR 1990 criteria for fibromyalgia and had a Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) average pain score $\geq 4$ at visits 1 and 2 were included
Exclusion criteria	Past duloxetine treatment; serious or medically unstable disease, clinically significant abnormal laboratory values, or abnormal electrocardiogram (ECG) findings; pain caused by non-fibromyalgia diseases; poorly controlled thyroid dysfunction; rheumatoid, inflammatory, or infectious arthritis; autoimmune disorders other than thyroid dysfunction; psychiatric disorders other than major depressive disorder within the past year; and suicidal tendencies as assessed using the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale
Recruitment/selection of patients	March 2012 to December 2013
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 48.7(11.9) Gender (M:F): 65:321. Ethnicity: Japanese
Further population details	1. chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=196) Intervention 1: serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors - duloxetine. After a 1 to 2 week screening phase participants were randomised to duloxetine for 14 weeks. This was orally administered once daily after breakfast. Patients received 20mg per day for 1 week followed by 40mg per day for 1 week, and then 60mg per day for the duration of the study. Duration 14 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Patients were prohibited from using analgesics and drugs with analgesic effects, including nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, anticonvulsants, pregabalin, neurotropin, anesthetics, opioids, and adrenocorticosteroids. The use of analgesics for up to 3 consecutive days and for up to a total of 10 days was permitted only for the treatment of adverse events (AEs). Coadministration of acetaminophen at doses up to 1500 mg/day was permitted to treat AEs and as rescue treatment for fibromyalgia, except on the day before efficacy was evaluated after visit 2 and until just before the evaluation. The use of prophylactic aspirin at doses up to 325 mg/day to prevent cardiac events was also permitted. Indirectness: No indirectness

	(n=197) Intervention 2: placebo. Placebo. Duration 14 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: patients were prohibited from using analgesics and drugs with analgesic effects, including nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, anticonvulsants, pregabalin, neurotrophin, anesthetics, opioids, and adrenocorticosteroids. The use of analgesics for up to 3 consecutive days and for up to a total of 10 days was permitted only for the treatment of adverse events (AEs). Coadministration of acetaminophen at doses up to 1500 mg/day was permitted to treat AEs and as rescue treatment for fibromyalgia, except on the day before efficacy was evaluated after visit 2 and until just before the evaluation. The use of prophylactic aspirin at doses up to 325 mg/day to prevent cardiac events was also permitted. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Study funded by industry (Shionogi & Co. Ltd., Eli Lilly Japan K.K., and Eli Lilly & Company)
<p><b>RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DULOXETINE versus PLACEBO</b></p> <p>Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction          - Actual outcome: BPI total score average (change score) at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean -1.6 (SD 0.26); n=191, Group 2: mean -1.22 (SD 0.26); n=195; BPI 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline D: 6.05 ± 1.29 P: 6.13 ± 1.35          Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48</p> <p>Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life          - Actual outcome: SF-36 physical functioning subscale (change score) at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean 7.4 (SD 2.13); n=191, Group 2: mean 3.04 (SD 2.15); n=195; SF-36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baseline D: 63.72 ± 18.75 P:62.51 ± 19.82          Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48          - Actual outcome: SF-36 physical role limitations subscale (change score) at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean 8.2 (SD 2.96); n=191, Group 2: mean 0.44 (SD 2.98); n=195; Comments: Baseline: D: 49.25 ± 25.57 P: 49.13 ± 25.60          Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48          - Actual outcome: SF-36 bodily pain subscale (change score) at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean 10.95 (SD 2.07); n=191, Group 2: mean 5.28 (SD 2.08); n=195; SF-36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baseline: D: 36.53 ± 12.40 P: 36.60 ± 11.71          Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48</p>	

- Actual outcome: SF-36 general health perceptions subscale (change score) at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean 6.55 (SD 1.92); n=191, Group 2: mean 3.31 (SD 1.94); n=195; SF-36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baseline

39.37 ± 17.67

38.76 ± 14.77

Risk of bias: All domain - high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48

- Actual outcome: SF-36 vitality subscale (change score) at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean 10.05 (SD 2.51); n=191, Group 2: mean 3.35 (SD 2.53); n=195; SF-36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baseline:

32.43 ± 21.03

31.96 ± 18.80

Risk of bias: All domain - high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48

- Actual outcome: SF-36 social functioning subscale (change score) at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean 10.32 (SD 3.04); n=191, Group 2: mean 3.28 (SD 3.06); n=195; sf-36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baseline

55.71 ± 26.54

55.76 ± 27.53

Risk of bias: All domain - high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48

- Actual outcome: SF-36 mental health subscale (change score) at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean 5.91 (SD 2.51); n=191, Group 2: mean -2 (SD 2.52); n=195; SF-36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baseline

56.10 ± 19.84

55.50 ± 18.85

Risk of bias: All domain - high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48

- Actual outcome: SF-36 emotional role limitations subscale (change score) at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean 5.5 (SD 3.35); n=191, Group 2: mean -3.63 (SD 3.36); n=195; SF-36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: Baseline:

61.24 ± 26.80

60.34 ± 29.16

Risk of bias: All domain - high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48

### Protocol outcome 3: Physical function

- Actual outcome: Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire physical function subscale at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean -0.37 (SD 2.35); n=191, Group 2: mean -0.37 (SD 0.26); n=195; FIQ 0-5 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline

D: 3.36 ± 2.35

P: 3.85 ± 2.32

Risk of bias: All domain - high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48

Protocol outcome 4: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)

- Actual outcome: Beck Depression Inventory II total change scores at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean -4.09 (SD 0.84); n=191, Group 2: mean -1.19 (SD 0.85); n=195; BDI-II 0-63 Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48

Protocol outcome 5: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 14 weeks; Group 1: 15/196, Group 2: 14/197

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48

Protocol outcome 6: Sleep

- Actual outcome: BPI interference score - sleep at 14 weeks; Group 1: mean -1.82 (SD 0.35); n=191, Group 2: mean -1.57 (SD 0.36); n=195;

Comments: Baseline

D: 5.30 ± 2.81

P: 5.22 ± 2.91

Risk of bias: All domain - high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 30; Group 2 Number missing: 48

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Use of healthcare services

Study	Norregaard 1995 <sup>424</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=42)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Denmark; Setting: Inferred: hospital clinic
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 4 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Fibromyalgia (ACR); stopped other drugs 2 weeks prior to study. Allowed NSAIDs.
Exclusion criteria	Heart, lung or liver disease; glaucoma; pregnant/lactating; history of endogenous depression; thyroid, rheumatoid or erythrocyte disorders.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Telephone, letter or personal contact
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 49 ± 9. Gender (M:F): Not reported. Ethnicity: Not reported
Further population details	1. chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=21) Intervention 1: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors - citalopram. 20 mg/day stepped to 40 mg/day for last 4 weeks if unresponsive. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: NSAIDs allowed. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=21) Intervention 2: placebo. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Allowed NSAIDs. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Other (H Lundbeck)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: CITALOPRAM versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Physical function**

- Actual outcome: FIQ Physical Function component at 8 weeks; Group 1: mean 1.7 (SD 0.6); n=21, Group 2: mean 1.7 (SD 0.5); n=21; Not reported 68  
Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: Same as final values (no change)

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Very high because unclear which arm 8 of the withdrawals had been allocated to.; Indirectness of outcome: no

indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: It is not clear in which arm eight of the withdrawals were in; Group 2 Number missing: 0, Reason: It is not clear in which arm eight of the withdrawals were in

Protocol outcome 2: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)

- Actual outcome: Beck Depression Inventory at 8 weeks; Group 1: mean 1 (SD 6.1); n=21, Group 2: mean 0.9 (SD 7.9); n=21; BDI 0-63 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $16.4 \pm 8.3$  :  $16.3 \pm 8.3$

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Very high because unclear which arm 8 of the withdrawals had been allocated to.; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 9, Reason: It is not clear in which arm eight of the withdrawals were in; Group 2 Number missing: 0, Reason: It is not clear in which arm eight of the withdrawals were in

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Pain reduction; Quality of life; Discontinuation due to adverse events; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Pontari 2009 <sup>471</sup> (Pontari 2010 <sup>470</sup> )
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=324)
Countries and setting	Conducted in USA; Setting: 10 tertiary care clinics
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 6 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Discomfort or pain in the pelvic region during at least 3 of the previous 6 months, and they had a total score of at least 15 of 43 on the National Institutes of Health Chronic Prostatitis Symptom Index (NIH-CPSI). Previous treatment with gabapentin or pregabalin was allowed if it was completed at least 2 weeks before study enrollment.
Exclusion criteria	Creatinine clearance less than 60 mL/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> , a platelet count less than 100 000 103/ $\mu$ L, allergy to any anti-seizure medication, known sensitivity to pregabalin, treatment with thiazolidinedione or antidiabetic agents ,New York Heart Association class III or IV congestive heart failure, a history of thrombocytopenia or bleeding diathesis, and a history of alcohol abuse. Participants were not excluded if they had previous treatment for CP/CPSP or for taking analgesics for another condition if they continued to have pelvic pain despite the analgesic therapy and had a score of at least 15 on the NIH-CPSI.
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 47 $\pm$ 13. Gender (M:F): All men. Ethnicity: White: 79% Black: 12%
Further population details	1. chronic visceral pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=218) Intervention 1: anti-epileptics - pregabalin. 150mg/d (50mg orally 3 times daily) for 2 weeks, then 300mg/d (100mg orally 3 times daily) for 2 weeks, then 600mg/d (200mg orally 3 times daily) for 2 weeks. Duration 6 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: not reported. Indirectness: No indirectness; Indirectness comment: NA  (n=106) Intervention 2: placebo. placebo with similar escalation in capsules prescribed. Duration 6 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: not reported. Indirectness: No indirectness; Indirectness comment: NA
Funding	Academic or government funding (National Institutes of Health grant)



**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: PREGABALIN versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: McGill Pain Questionnaire at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 9.6 (SD 8.8); n=210, Group 2: mean 12.4 (SD 9.1); n=103; McGill pain reduction 0-45 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: 13.8 ± 8.7 : 14.1 ± 8.5

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - Low, Comments - Asymmetric group sizes; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 8; Group 2 Number missing: 3

**Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life**

- Actual outcome: Medical Outcomes Summary SF-12: Physical at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 46.9 Score ≥50 = Better quality of life (SD 10.1); n=210, Group 2: mean 44.3 Score ≥50 = Better quality of life (SD 10.6); n=103; SF-12 Physical 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: 44.9 ± 10.1 : 43.9 ± 10.3  
Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - Low, Comments - Asymmetric group sizes; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 8; Group 2 Number missing: 3

- Actual outcome: Medical Outcomes Summary SF-12: Mental at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 45 Score ≥50 = Better quality of life (SD 11.2); n=210, Group 2: mean 44.6 Score ≥50 = Better quality of life (SD 10.6); n=103; SF-12 Mental 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: 41.8 ± 10.6 : 42.8 ± 10.6  
Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - Low, Comments - Asymmetric group sizes; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 8; Group 2 Number missing: 3

**Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety) at 6 weeks**

- Actual outcome: HADS score at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 12.4 (SD 7.8); n=210, Group 2: mean 12.2 (SD 7.8); n=103; Hamilton anxiety and depression 0-42 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: 14.8 ± 7.5 : 14.1 ± 7.3 ±7.5 : 14.1 ± 7.3 ±7.3)

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - Low, Comments - Asymmetric group sizes; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 8; Group 2 Number missing: 3

**Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 6 weeks**

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events: n at 6 weeks; Group 1: 0/218, Group 2: 0/106

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - Low, Comments - Asymmetric group sizes; Indirectness of outcome: -- ; Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Physical function; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Russell 1991 <sup>504</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=102)
Countries and setting	Conducted in USA; Setting: Not reported
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 8 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Primary fibrositis/fibromyalgia (Russell 1986); 18-65 years old
Exclusion criteria	Other rheumatic conditions; chronic infections; untreated endocrine disorders; active peptic ulcers; mental health disorders; seizures.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Not reported: Infer Texas Health Science Center
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 47.3 ± 1.2. Gender (M:F): 10:90. Ethnicity: 20% hispanic
Further population details	1. chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	<p>(n=17) Intervention 1: benzodiazepines - alprazolam. Alprazolam 0.5 mg/day (titrated up to 3mg if no adverse effects). Step-down titration during week 8. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Allowed to take hypertension/diabetes drugs if required. Indirectness: No indirectness</p> <p>(n=17) Intervention 2: NSAID - ibuprofen. ibuprofen 600 mg x 4 times/day. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Allowed to take hypertension/diabetes drugs if required. Indirectness: No indirectness</p> <p>(n=14) Intervention 3: placebo. Coded placebo. Duration 8 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Allowed to take hypertension/diabetes drugs if required. Indirectness: No indirectness</p>
Funding	Study funded by industry (The Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo)

RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: ALPRAZOLAM versus PLACEBO

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: VAS Patient Self-assessment at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean -1.4 (SD 0.8); n=17, Group 2: mean -0.9 (SD 0.5); n=14; VAS pain assessment by patient 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: 7.0 : 6.1  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No SDs reported for baseline results. Attrition rate not logically reported; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing; Group 2 Number missing

Protocol outcome 2: Physical function

- Actual outcome: Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ): disability index at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean -0.1 (SD 0.1); n=17, Group 2: mean -0.2 (SD 0.1); n=14; HAQ Disability Index 0-3 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values: 1.3 : 1.4  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No SDs reported for baseline results. Attrition rate not logically reported; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing; Group 2 Number missing

Protocol outcome 2: Psychological distress

- Actual outcome: Centre for epidemiological studies – depression scale at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean -2 (SD 0.3); n=17, Group 2: mean -2.2 (SD 0.3); n=14; Centre for epidemiological studies 0-100, Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline not reported  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No SDs reported for baseline results. Attrition rate not logically reported; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing; Group 2 Number missing

RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: IBUPROFEN versus PLACEBO

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: VAS self-assessment at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean -1.2 (SD 0.6); n=17, Group 2: mean -0.9 (SD 0.5); n=14; VAS ruler 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome, baseline not reported  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No SDs reported for baseline results. Attrition rate not logically reported; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing; Group 2 Number missing

Protocol outcome 2: Physical function

- Actual outcome: Health Assessment Questionnaire disability index at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean -0.1 (SD 0.1); n=17, Group 2: mean -0.2 (SD 0.1); n=14; HAQ 0-3 Top=High is poor outcome, baseline not reported  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No SDs reported for baseline results. Attrition rate not logically reported; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing; Group 2 Number missing

Protocol outcome 2: Psychological distress

- Actual outcome: Centre for epidemiological studies – depression scale at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean -2.8 (SD 0.3); n=17, Group 2: mean -2.2 (SD 0.3);

n=14; Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale 0-100 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline not reported Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No SDs reported for baseline results. Attrition rate not logically reported; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing; Group 2 Number missing	
Protocol outcomes not reported by the study	Quality of life; Discontinuation due to adverse events; Use of healthcare services; Sleep

Study	Russell 2008 <sup>506</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	(n=520)
Countries and setting	Conducted in USA; Setting: 38 outpatient research centres in the USA and Puerto Rico between 2005 and 2007
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention time: 6 months
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	(1) At least 18 years of age (2) met fibromyalgia criteria defined by ACR (3) score of 4 or more on the average pain severity item of the BPI
Exclusion criteria	(1) Any primary psychiatric diagnosis other than major depression (2) pain symptoms unrelated to fibromyalgia (3) surgeries (4) failed back syndrome (5) other conditions such as RA, inflammatory arthritis, autoimmune diseases and any unstable or medical psychiatric disorder, severe liver disease (6) pregnancy or breast-feeding (7) history of substance abuse within the last year
Recruitment/selection of patients	Patients were identified by physician referral or advertisement for a fibromyalgia medication trial
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 51(10.5) years. Gender (M:F): 27:493. Ethnicity: 84% English, 4% African, 11% Hispanic, 1% Other
Further population details	1. chronic orofacial pain: people with pain conditions other than chronic orofacial pain 2. chronic visceral pain: people with pain conditions other than chronic visceral pain 3. chronic widespread pain: people with chronic widespread pain (Fibromyalgia). 4. complex regional pain syndrome: people with pain conditions other than complex regional pain syndrome

Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	<p>(n=79) Intervention 1: serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors - duloxetine. 3 months double blind phase followed by an additional 13-week double blind phase. A 2-week taper occurred at the end of the additional 28 weeks for patients who discontinued after receiving at least 2 weeks of treatment. Participants starting on 20mg/day had their dosage titrated to 60mg/day after 3 months. Duration 6 months. Concurrent medication/care: Not specified. Indirectness: No indirectness</p> <p>(n=150) Intervention 2: serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors - duloxetine. 3 months double blind phase followed by an additional 13-week double blind phase. A 2-week taper occurred at the end of the additional 28 weeks for patients who discontinued after receiving at least 2 weeks of treatment. Participants starting on 60mg/day were started on 30mg/day for 1 week, then to 120mg/day. Had their dosage titrated to 60mg/day after 3 months. Duration 6 months. Concurrent medication/care: Not specified. Indirectness: No indirectness</p> <p>(n=147) Intervention 3: serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors - duloxetine. 3 months double blind phase followed by an additional 13-week double blind phase. A 2-week taper occurred at the end of the additional 28 weeks for patients who discontinued after receiving at least 2 weeks of treatment. Participants starting on 120mg/day were started on 30mg/day for 1 week, then 60mg/day for 1 week, then 120mg/day. Duration 6 months. Concurrent medication/care: Not specified. Indirectness: No indirectness</p> <p>(n=144) Intervention 4: placebo. Placebo. Duration 6 months. Concurrent medication/care: Not specified. Indirectness: No indirectness</p>
Funding	Study funded by industry (Eli Lilly and Company and Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH)

To note: review analysis combines duloxetine 20mg/day, 60mg/day and 120mg/day groups.

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DULOXETINE 20MG/DAY versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: Pain reduction (BPI average pain severity) at 6 months; Group 1: mean -2.22 (SD 2.5); n=79, Group 2: mean -1.43 (SD 2.52); n=144; Brief pain inventory 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome  
 Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 34; Group 2 Number missing: 72

**Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life**

- Actual outcome: Quality of life (EQ-5D) at 6 months; Group 1: mean -14.77 (SD 16.71); n=79, Group 2: mean -10.42 (SD 17.88); n=144; Baseline not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 34; Group 2 Number missing: 72

Protocol outcome 3: Physical function

- Actual outcome: Physical function (FIQ physical function subscale) at 6 months; Group 1 mean -5.63 (SD 7.64); n=79, Group 2: mean -4.85 (SD 8.24); n=144; Baseline not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 34; Group 2 Number missing: 72

Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events Group 1 35/79, Group 2: 72/144

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 6 months;

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 15; Group 2 Number missing: 58

#### RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DULOXETINE 60MG/DAY versus PLACEBO

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: Pain reduction (BPI average pain severity) at 6 months; Group 1: mean -1.98 (SD 2.57); n=150, Group 2: mean -1.43 (SD 2.52); n=144; Brief pain inventory 0-10 Top=High is poor outcome, Baseline not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 68; Group 2 Number missing: 72

Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life

- Actual outcome: Quality of life (EQ-5D) at 6 months; ; Group 1: mean -12.28 (SD 17.63); n=150, Group 2: mean -10.42 (SD 17.88); n=144, Baseline not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 68; Group 2 Number missing: 72

Protocol outcome 3: Physical function

- Actual outcome: Physical function (FIQ physical function subscale) at 6 months; Group 1: mean -5.38 (SD 8.08); n=150, Group 2: mean -4.85 (SD 8.24); n=144, Baseline not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 91; Group 2 Number missing: 72

Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 6 months; Group 1 68/147 , Group 2: 72/144

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 68; Group 2 Number missing: 58

RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DULOXETINE 120MG/DAY versus PLACEBO

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: Pain reduction (BPI average pain severity) at 6 months; Group 1: mean -2.26 (SD 2.4); n=147, Group 2: mean -1.43 (SD 2.52); n=144

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 68; Group 2 Number missing: 72

Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life

- Actual outcome: Quality of life (EQ-5D) at 6 months; Group 1: mean -13.86 (SD 17.09); n=147, Group 2: mean -10.42 (SD 17.88); n=144

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 68; Group 2 Number missing: 72

Protocol outcome 3: Physical function

- Actual outcome: Physical function (FIQ physical function subscale) at 6 months; Group 1: mean -5.23 (SD 7.88); n=147, Group 2: mean --4.85 (SD 8.24); n=144

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 68; Group 2 Number missing: 72

Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 6 months; Group 1 68/147 , Group 2: 72/144

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 29; Group 2 Number missing: 58

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Scudds 1995 <sup>525</sup>
Study type	RCT ( randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=61)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Canada; Setting: Not reported
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 3 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Diagnosis of fibromyalgia or myofascial pain syndrome. Met ARA 1990 criteria for fibromyalgia or had generally accepted criteria for MPS.
Exclusion criteria	Previous or suspected hypersensitivity to lidocaine, significant concomitant disease, pregnant, participated in clinical study within 2 months, receiving concurrent treatments such as physical therapy or other medication. Other drugs were stopped 1 week before study entry. Stable medications such as amitriptyline were allowed if the dosage did not change.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Not reported
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 45 ± 9.2. Gender (M:F): 8:53. Ethnicity: Not reported
Further population details	1. chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=31) Intervention 1: local anaesthetic and/or steroid trigger point injection - lidocaine injection. 4%. Duration 3 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Stable medications (flexeril, valium, amitriptyline) were allowed provided frequency did not change.  (n=30) Intervention 2: placebo. Sterile water. Duration 3 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Stable medications (flexeril, valium, amitriptyline) were allowed provided frequency did not change. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Study funded by industry (Astra Pharma (Canada))
RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: LIDOCAINE INJECTION versus PLACEBO	
Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction	



- Actual outcome: VAS: 100mm ruler at 3 weeks; Group 1: 10/31, Group 2: 11/30; Comments: Number of responders with score-decrease >30%  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Very high, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing, Reason: No attrition reported; Group 2 Number missing, Reason: No attrition reported

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Discontinuation due to adverse events; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Singer 1997 <sup>536</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=49)
Countries and setting	Conducted in USA; Setting: National Institute of Dental Research
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 4 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Daily/near daily facial pain for ≥3 months (recorded in diary); muscle tenderness on palpation
Exclusion criteria	Suicidal ideation; mood disorders; substance abuse; TMJ pathology; facial trauma including surgery; systemic illness; allergy to study drugs.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Local doctors and dentists
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 36.1 (no SD). Gender (M:F): 4:35. Ethnicity: NR
Further population details	1. chronic orofacial pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	<p>(n=10) Intervention 1: benzodiazepines - diazepam. 2.5 mg/qid for 1 week, then 5 mg/qid for 3 weeks if no side effects. Duration 4 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: None reported. Indirectness: Very serious indirectness; Indirectness comment: No N</p> <p>(n=10) Intervention 2: placebo. Same regimen as intervention. Duration 4 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: -. Indirectness: Very serious indirectness</p> <p>(n=10) Intervention 3: NSAID - ibuprofen. 2400mg/day: 600 mg/qid. Duration 4 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: -. Indirectness: Very serious indirectness</p>
Funding	Funding not stated
<p><b>RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: DIAZEPAM versus PLACEBO</b></p> <p>Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction                      - Actual outcome: VAS pain scale at 4 weeks; Group 1: mean 39.5 (SD 29.3); n=10, Group 2: mean 23.2 (SD 22.4); n=10; VAS Not reported Top=High</p>	

is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $50.9 \pm 21.6$  :  $38.7 \pm 36.9$ . Note: converted to 0-10 scale for analysis  
Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Very high, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No n for each arm (just overall N reported).

Protocol outcome 2: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)

- Actual outcome: Depression Adjective Checklist at 4 weeks; Group 1: mean 5.4 (SD 4.3); n=10, Group 2: mean 10.7 (SD 8.2); n=10; Depression Adjective Checklist Not reported Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $8.7 \pm 6.6$  :  $9.9 \pm 6.1$

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Very high, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No n for each arm (just overall N reported).

#### RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: IBUPROFEN versus PLACEBO

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: VAS pain scale at 4 weeks; Group 1: mean 25.9 (SD 24.4); n=10, Group 2: mean 23.2 (SD 22.4); n=10; VAS Pain Not reported Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $37.7 \pm 27.0$  :  $38.7 \pm 36.9$ . Note: converted to 0-10 scale for analysis

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Very high, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No n for each arm (just overall N reported).

Protocol outcome 2: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)

- Actual outcome: Depression Adjective Checklist at 4 weeks; Group 1: mean 6.4 (SD 3.6); n=10, Group 2: mean 10.7 (SD 8.2); n=10; Adjective check list Unclear Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $8.1 \pm 3.6$  :  $9.9 \pm 6.1$

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Very high, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No n for each arm (just overall N reported).

#### RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: IBUPROFEN versus DIAZEPAM

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: VAS pain scale at 4 weeks; Group 1: mean 25.9 (SD 24.4); n=10, Group 2: mean 39.5 (SD 29.3); n=10; VAS Pain Not reported Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $37.7 \pm 27.0$  :  $50.9 \pm 21.6$ . Note: converted to 0-10 scale for analysis

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Very high, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No n for each arm (just overall N reported).

Protocol outcome 2: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)

- Actual outcome: Depression Adjective Checklist at 4 weeks; Group 1: mean 6.4 (SD 3.6); n=10, Group 2: mean 5.4 (SD 4.3); n=10; Adjective check list Unclear Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $8.1 \pm 3.6$  :  $8.7 \pm 6.6$

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Very high, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Very high, Measurement - High, Crossover - Low, Comments - No n for each arm (just overall N reported).

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study	Quality of life; Physical function; Discontinuation due to adverse events; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep
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Study	Spinhoven 2010 <sup>548</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	(n=69)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Netherlands; Setting: Outpatient centres
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention time: 16 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	(1) nonspecific chest pain occurring at least once a week or once per month if accompanied by severe psychological distress (2) aged 18 to 75 years
Exclusion criteria	(1) conditions that could cause chest pain such as coronary artery disease or MI (2) current psychiatric treatment for the pain (3) psychiatric conditions such as major depression, bipolar, substance use disorder (4) pregnancy (5) use of psychotropic medications
Recruitment/selection of patients	Patients received letters by mail asking for participation
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 57.4(9) years. Gender (M:F): 24:22. Ethnicity: Not specified
Further population details	1. chronic orofacial pain: people with pain conditions other than chronic orofacial pain 2. chronic visceral pain: people with chronic visceral pain 3. chronic widespread pain: people with pain conditions other than chronic widespread pain 4. complex regional pain syndrome: people with pain conditions other than complex regional pain syndrome
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=23) Intervention 1: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors - paroxetine. Paroxetine started on 10mg per day in the first week, increased weekly in increments of 10mg to a maximum daily dosage of 40mg/day. Dosage was decreased with intolerable side-effects. 12 medication control visits were scheduled during the 16 week treatment period. Duration 16 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Psychotherapeutic or behavioural interventions not allowed. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=23) Intervention 2: placebo. Placebo . Duration 16 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Psychotherapeutic or behavioural interventions not allowed. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Academic or government funding (Dutch Heart Foundation and Glaxo Smith Kline)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: PAROXETINE versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: Pain reduction (VAS final values) at 16 weeks; Group 1: mean 20.9 (SD 19.4); n=23, Group 2: mean 23.5 (SD 18.5); n=23; VAS 0-100  
Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 7; Group 2 Number missing: 4

- Actual outcome: Pain reduction (VAS final values) at 8 weeks; Group 1: mean 22 (SD 19.3); n=23, Group 2: mean 23.8 (SD 17.9); n=23; VAS 0-100  
Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 7; Group 2 Number missing: 4

**Protocol outcome 2: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)**

- Actual outcome: Hospital anxiety and depression scale (anxiety component) at 16 weeks; Group 1: mean 4.7 (SD 3); n=23, Group 2: mean 7 (SD 3.3); n=23; HADS:A Not stated Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 7; Group 2 Number missing: 4

- Actual outcome: Hospital anxiety and depression scale (anxiety component) at 8 weeks; Group 1: mean 4.6 (SD 3); n=23, Group 2: mean 7.1 (SD 2.8); n=23; HADS:A Not reported Top=High is poor outcome

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Subgroups - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 7; Group 2 Number missing: 4

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Discontinuation due to adverse events; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Skrabek 2008 <sup>538</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=44)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Canada; Setting: Muscular Skeletal outpatient clinic at Winnipeg.
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 4 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Fibromyalgia (ACR 1990); cannabinoid naive; continuing pain despite other medications.
Exclusion criteria	Psychotic disorders; non-idiopathic pain; routine blood test abnormalities; pregnant/lactating; serious illness; sensitivity to marijuana
Recruitment/selection of patients	NR
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Range: 18-70 (mostly aged 40 to early 50s). Gender (M:F): NR. Ethnicity: Not reported
Further population details	1. chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=20) Intervention 1: cannabinoids - nabilone. 0.5 mg/day, then 1 mg (0.5 mg/bid) after 7 days. Duration 4 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Subjects were asked to continue any current treatment for fibromyalgia, including breakthrough pain medications, but not to begin any new therapies. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=20) Intervention 2: placebo. Identical pills. Duration 4 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Subjects were asked to continue any current treatment for fibromyalgia, including breakthrough pain medications, but not to begin any new therapies. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Other (Government funding and funding from Valeant Canada Ltd)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: NABILONE versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: VAS Pain score at 4 weeks; Mean difference from baseline in Group 1 -2.04(p<.02), Comment: results were reported in insufficient detail for quality assessment or inclusion in the analysis. Baseline values: Group 1 6.86 (2.14), Group 2 6.2 (1.46)

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low,

Crossover - Low, Comments; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: NA. Group 1 Number missing: unclear ; Group 2 Number missing: unclear

Protocol outcome 2: Quality of life

- Actual outcome: Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire at 4 weeks; Group 1: Mean difference from baseline in Group 1 -12.07 (<.02)Comment: results were reported in insufficient detail for quality assessment or inclusion in the analysis. Baseline values: Group 1 66.45 (12.76), Group 2 66.53 (16.21)

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - High, Outcome reporting -High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness, Comments: Group 1 Number missing: unclear; Group 2 Number missing: unclear

Protocol outcome 3: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 4 weeks; Group 1: 3/20, Group 2: 1/20

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding -Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Comments - Reasons for discontinuation: Group 1 dizziness, disorientation and nausea (n=1), poor coordination, dizziness , headache and nausea (n=1), drowsiness and fatigue (n=1); Group 2 headaches (n=1); Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Psychological distress; Physical function; Use of healthcare services ; Sleep



Study	Van Ophoven 2004 <sup>592</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=50)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Germany; Setting: Munster University Hospital
Line of therapy	2nd line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 4 months
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Interstitial cystitis diagnosis (Hanno 1999); Had received previous conservative treatment resulting in, at best, short relief.
Exclusion criteria	None reported
Recruitment/selection of patients	Munster University Hospital, no further details
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 55.35 ± 16.74. Gender (M:F): 44:6. Ethnicity: Not reported
Further population details	1. chronic visceral pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=25) Intervention 1: tricyclic antidepressants - amitriptyline. 25-100 mg/day (stepped, unforced titration). Duration 4 months. Concurrent medication/care: None reported. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=25) Intervention 2: placebo. Manufactured at hospital pharmacy. Duration 6 months. Concurrent medication/care: None reported. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Funding not stated

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: AMITRIPTYLINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: VAS pain intensity at 6 months; Group 1: mean -22.8 (SD 26.1); n=25, Group 2: mean 1 (SD 14.8); n=25; Comments: Baseline values: 52.7 ± 24.6 : 52.6 ± 28.4

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Comments - Placebo pills were home-made: not made by the manufacturer of the experimental pills; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: 1; Group 2 Number missing: 1 (due to adverse events)

Protocol outcome 2: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: N discontinued due to adverse events at 6 months; Group 1: 1/25, Group 2: 1/25

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low, Other 1 - High, Comments - Placebo pills were home-made: not made by the manufacturer of the experimental pills; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness; Group 1 Number missing: 1; Group 2 Number missing: 1 (due to adverse events)

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Use of healthcare services ; Sleep

Study	Wolfe 1994 <sup>632</sup>
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	1 (n=42)
Countries and setting	Conducted in USA; Setting: Outpatient rheumatology clinics
Line of therapy	1st line
Duration of study	Intervention time: 6 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Women with fibromyalgia (ACR) with 7-14 tender points and VAS pain score $\geq 1/3$ . Fluoxetine-naive.
Exclusion criteria	Other significant rheumatic disease; concomitant treatments other than NSAIDs and acetaminophen.
Recruitment/selection of patients	From a register of fibromyalgia patients
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): $50 \pm 12$ . Gender (M:F): All women. Ethnicity: >95% white
Further population details	1. chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=21) Intervention 1: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors - fluoxetine. 20 mg/am. Duration 6 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: NSAIDs were allowed. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=21) Intervention 2: placebo. 1 sham dose per day am. Duration 6 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: NSAIDs were allowed. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Funding not stated

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: FLUOXETINE versus PLACEBO**

**Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction**

- Actual outcome: VAS scale at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 1.6 (SD 0.79); n=15, Group 2: mean 1.6 (SD 0.79); n=9; VAS pain 0-3 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $1.7 \pm 0.48$  :  $1.8 \pm 0.81$

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 6, Reason: Lack of efficacy; Loss to follow-up; Adverse event; Group 2 Number missing: 12, Reason: Lack of efficacy; Loss to follow-up; Adverse event

Protocol outcome 2: Physical function

- Actual outcome: HAQ total scores at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 0.7 (SD 0.43); n=15, Group 2: mean 0.8 (SD 0.76); n=9; 0-3, Top=High is poor outcome;  
 Comments: Baseline values:  $0.9 \pm 1.1$  :  $1.1 \pm 0.66$   
 Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 6, Reason: Lack of efficacy; Loss to follow-up; Adverse event; Group 2 Number missing: 12, Reason: Lack of efficacy; Loss to follow-up; Adverse event

Protocol outcome 3: Psychological distress (depression/anxiety)

- Actual outcome: Beck Depression Inventory at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 8.3 (SD 5.86); n=15, Group 2: mean 13.9 (SD 10.82); n=9; Beck Depression Inventory 0-63 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $11.8 \pm 7.65$  :  $13.9 \pm 8.86$   
 Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 6, Reason: Lack of efficacy; Loss to follow-up; Adverse event; Group 2 Number missing: 12, Reason: Lack of efficacy; Loss to follow-up; Adverse event

Protocol outcome 4: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events: n at 6 weeks; Group 1: 1/15, Group 2: 1/9  
 Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 0, Reason: 0; Group 2 Number missing: 0, Reason: 0

Protocol outcome 5: Sleep at 6 weeks

- Actual outcome: VAS Sleep difficulty at 6 weeks; Group 1: mean 7.6 (SD 3.1); n=15, Group 2: mean 7.6 (SD 3.83); n=9; VAS sleep difficulty 0-15 Top=High is poor outcome; Comments: Baseline values:  $9.6 \pm 2.12$  :  $9.7 \pm 4.09$   
 Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - High, Blinding - High, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 6, Reason: Lack of efficacy; Loss to follow-up; Adverse event; Group 2 Number missing: 12, Reason: Lack of efficacy; Loss to follow-up; Adverse event

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Use of healthcare services

Study	Yeephu 2013 <sup>642</sup> (Suttiruksa 2016 <sup>562</sup> )
Study type	RCT (Patient randomised; Parallel)
Number of studies (number of participants)	(n=40)
Countries and setting	Conducted in Thailand; Setting: Not stated
Line of therapy	Unclear
Duration of study	Intervention time: 13 weeks
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Adequate method of assessment/diagnosis
Stratum	Overall
Subgroup analysis within study	Not applicable
Inclusion criteria	Aged 18 years or older, descended from Thai parents, met FMS criteria as defined by the 1990 American College of Rheumatology Research Classification Criteria, 2 and had a current Pain Visual Analog Scale (PVAS) score of at least 40 mm at screening. Previously treated FMS patients were eligible if they had failed to respond adequately to previous medications and were willing to discontinue those medications for a period of at least 5 half-lives.
Exclusion criteria	Any severe or unstable physical or psychiatric disorder; inflammation, injury, or trauma in the previous month; substance abuse within the past year; serious suicide risk; comorbid inflammatory rheumatic diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus or rheumatoid arthritis; were pregnant or breastfeeding; had allergic history to any constituent of investigational products; or had severe allergic reactions to multiple medications. Additional exclusion criteria were use of medications or herbal agents with CNS activity; regular use of analgesics, with the exception of acetaminophen up to 2 g/day; and chronic use of sedatives/hypnotics. Individuals who were unable to discontinue medications that might affect the study results.
Recruitment/selection of patients	Not stated
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 44.66(10.77). Gender (M:F): All females. Ethnicity: Not specified
Further population details	1. chronic widespread pain subgroup
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	(n=27) Intervention 1: Tetracyclic antidepressant - mirtazepine. Randomised to 15 or 30mg per day. Starting dose of 7.5 mg (half tablet) and titrated up to the randomised dose over 1 or 2 weeks and then continued with stable dosage for 13 weeks. During dose escalation participants were contacted every 1-3 days via telephone and every 1-2 weeks via clinic visit. The date on which the patient started the expected dose was counted as day 0 (week 0 or visit 1). After that, patients were followed at day 7 ± 2 (week 1 or visit 2), day 21 ± 2 (week 3 or visit 3), day 35 ± 2 (week 5 or visit 4), day 63 ± 7 (week 9 or visit 5), and day 91 ± 7 (week 13 or visit 6)

	Duration 13 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Not stated. Indirectness: No indirectness  (n=13) Intervention 2: placebo. Placebo. Duration 13 weeks. Concurrent medication/care: Not stated. Indirectness: No indirectness
Funding	Academic or government funding (Commission on Higher Education Staff Development Project for the Joint PhD Program in Biopharmaceutical Sciences, Thailand)

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: MIRTAZEPINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Pain reduction

- Actual outcome: VAS responders (definition not specified) at 13 weeks; Group 1: 16/27, Group 2: 5/13

Risk of bias: All domain - Very high, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Very high, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 5; Group 2 Number missing: 3

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: MIRTAZEPINE versus PLACEBO\***

Protocol outcome 1: Quality of life

- Actual outcome: SF36 Bodily pain. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 58 (SD 65.62); n=11, Group 2: mean 49 (SD 66.34); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 33 (15.9); Group 1 Number missing: 2, Reason: 1 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 General health. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 59 (SD 65.62); n=11, Group 2: mean 47 (SD 62.02); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM, baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 36 (19.7); Group 1 Number missing: 2, Reason: 1 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Mental health. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 81 (SD 50.84); n=11, Group 2: mean 72 (SD 41.46); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 63 (17.1); Group 1 Number missing: 2, Reason: 1 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Physical functioning. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 80 (SD 18.39); n=11, Group 2: mean 58 (SD 25.96); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 59 (21.6); Group 1 Number missing: 2, Reason: 1 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Role limitations - emotional. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 88.9 (SD 59.13); n=11, Group 2: mean 64 (SD 146.75); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 41 (37.9); Group 1 Number missing: 2, Reason: 1 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Role limitations - physical. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 63 (SD 135.93); n=11, Group 2: mean 57 (SD 166.58); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 30 (37.0); Group 1 Number missing: 2, Reason: 1 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Social functioning. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 48 (SD 32.45); n=11, Group 2: mean 53 (SD 35.33); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 53 (12.3); Group 1 Number missing: 2, Reason: 1 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Vitality. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 64 (SD 62.02); n=11, Group 2: mean 59 (SD 40.38); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 48 (19.1); Group 1 Number missing: 2, Reason: 1 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

#### RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: MIRTAZEPINE versus PLACEBO\*

##### Protocol outcome 1: Quality of life

- Actual outcome: SF36 Bodily pain. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 57 (SD 71.09); n=11, Group 2: mean 49 (SD 66.02); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 33 (15.9); Group 1 Number missing: 3, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 General health. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 53 (SD 87.55); n=11, Group 2: mean 47 (SD 62.02); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 36 (19.7); Group 1 Number missing: 3, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Mental health. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 83 (SD 46.4); n=11, Group 2: mean 72 (SD 41.46); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 63 (17.1); Group 1 Number missing: 3, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Physical functioning. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 76.7 (SD 22.45); n=11, Group 2: mean 58 (SD 25.96); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 59 (21.6); Group 1 Number missing: 3, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Role limitations - emotional. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 75 (SD 142.18); n=11, Group 2: mean 64 (SD 146.75); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 41 (37.9); Group 1 Number missing: 3, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Role limitations - physical. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 65 (SD 171.37); n=11, Group 2: mean 57 (SD 166.58); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 30 (37.0); Group 1 Number missing: 3, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Social functioning. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 52.1 (SD 18.33); n=11, Group 2: mean 53 (SD 35.33); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported



Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 53 (12.3); Group 1 Number missing: 3, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

- Actual outcome: SF36 Vitality. Change from baseline at 13 weeks; Group 1: mean 66 (SD 66.98); n=11, Group 2: mean 59 (SD 40.38); n=10; SF36 0-100 Top=High is good outcome; Comments: SD calculated from SEM , baseline values not reported

Risk of bias: All domain - High, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - High, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 48 (19.1); Group 1 Number missing: 3, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

**RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS FOR COMPARISON: MIRTAZEPINE versus PLACEBO**

Protocol outcome 1: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events 13 weeks; Group 1:3/26, Group 2: 2/14

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Baseline details: Not reported separately per group for outcome: FMS 33 (15.9); Group 1 Number missing: 3, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence; Group 2 Number missing: 2, Reason: 2 due to adverse events, 1 lack of adherence

\*To not that results for mirtazapine 15mg/day and 30mg/day were pooled in the analysis

Protocol outcome 2: Discontinuation due to adverse events

- Actual outcome: Discontinuation due to adverse events at 13 weeks; Group 1: 3/27, Group 2: 2/13

Risk of bias: All domain - Low, Selection - Low, Blinding - Low, Incomplete outcome data - Low, Outcome reporting - Low, Measurement - Low, Crossover - Low; Indirectness of outcome: No indirectness ; Group 1 Number missing: 2; Group 2 Number missing: 1

Protocol outcomes not reported by the study

Quality of life; Physical function; Psychological distress (depression/anxiety); Use of healthcare services; Sleep

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- 3
- 4

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## D.2 Opioid safety

3

Study	Edlund 2007 <sup>189</sup>
Study type	Retrospective cohort study
Number of studies (number of participants)	(n=15,160)
Countries and setting	USA, South Central Veterans Affairs Health Care Network data warehouse
Line of therapy	Not reported
Duration of study	4 years (recruitment during 2002 and follow up during years 2003-2005)
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Partially adequate method of assessment/diagnosis: cut-off of ≥91 days opioid use during 12 months as it is 'unlikely that an individual would receive more than 90 days' supply of opioids for an acute condition'
Stratum	NA
Subgroup analysis within study	Age: majority were 25-65 or ≥65 years Co-prescribing: not reported
Inclusion criteria	Veterans with at least 1 opioid prescription between January 1 2002 and December 30 2002; 91 or more days of opioid use during the 12 month period
Exclusion criteria	Any cancer diagnosis; opioid substance abuse disorder in years 2000, 2001 or 2002; prescriptions for methadone in 2001 or 2002
Recruitment/selection of patients	Consecutive patients meeting the inclusion/exclusion criteria
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - <40 years 4.2% 40-49 years 16.1% 50-59 years 35% 60+ years 44.6% Gender: M:F 14,381:776 Ethnicity: white 70.6%, black 11.6%, other 1.6%, unknown 16.2%
Further population details	NA
Extra comments	1148 out of the total cohort had non-opioid substance abuse/dependence during the year that they were recruited
Indirectness of population	No indirectness

<b>Study</b>	<b>Edlund 2007<sup>189</sup></b>
Interventions	n=10,387 chronic opioid users with ≥151 days' supply of prescribed opioids summed over one year
Funding	Veterans Affairs Health Service Research and Development
RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS: OPIOIDS	
Protocol outcome: Dependence - Actual outcome: abuse/dependence 151-210 days' supply: 43/3275 (1.3%); ≥211 days' supply: 196/7112 (2.8%) Risk of bias: High ; Indirectness of outcome: serious indirectness	
Protocol outcomes not reported by the study	cognitive impairment, fractures and falls, sexual dysfunction/endocrine impairment, immune dysfunction, sleep apnoea, cardiovascular events, all-cause mortality, self-harm/suicide, depressive symptoms/mood disturbances
Risk of bias details	See quality assessment

1

<b>Study</b>	<b>Edlund 2010<sup>188</sup></b>
Study type	Retrospective cohort study
Number of studies (number of participants)	(n=46,256)
Countries and setting	USA, Arkansas Medicaid files (serving a disadvantaged and vulnerable population) n=9,651 and HealthCore Integrated Research Database (medical and pharmacy administrative claims and health plan eligibility data from five commercial health plans representing the West, Mid-West, and South-East) n=36,605
Line of therapy	Not reported
Duration of study	4 years
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Partially adequate method of assessment/diagnosis: cut-off of at least 90 days' continuous opioid use as it is 'unlikely that an individual would receive opioids for greater than 90 days (usually four prescriptions) in a six-month period for acute conditions'
Stratum	NA
Subgroup analysis within study	Age: majority were 25-65 or ≥65 years Co-prescribing: unclear/not reported
Inclusion criteria	Adult enrollees (≥18 years) on chronic opioid therapy defined as at least 90 days' continuous use of opioids within a six-month period during the study period; 12 months of continuous enrolment before and after the index date

Study	Edlund 2010 <sup>188</sup>
Exclusion criteria	Cancer diagnosis at any time in the year before or after the index date (other than non-melanoma skin cancer) residents of nursing homes; those receiving hospice benefits
Recruitment/selection of patients	Consecutive patients meeting the inclusion/exclusion criteria
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - 18-30 years 5.4% 31-40 years 17% 41-50 years 30.7% 51-64 years 32.3% ≥65 years 14.6% Gender: M:F 17,746:28,510 Ethnicity: not reported
Further population details	NA
Extra comments	317 out of the total cohort had pre-index opioid substance abuse diagnosis and 1375 had non-opioid substance abuse diagnosis
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	n=11,884 chronic opioid users with >185 days' supply of prescribed opioids
Funding	Not reported
<b>RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS: OPIOIDS</b>	
Protocol outcome: Dependence - Actual outcome: abuse/dependence >185 days' supply: 696/11,884 (5.86%) Risk of bias: High ; Indirectness of outcome: serious indirectness	
Protocol outcomes not reported by the study	cognitive impairment, fractures and falls, sexual dysfunction/endocrine impairment, immune dysfunction, sleep apnoea, cardiovascular events, all-cause mortality, self-harm/suicide, depressive symptoms/mood disturbances
Risk of bias details	See quality assessment

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Study	Ray 2016 <sup>483</sup>
Study type	Retrospective cohort study
Number of studies (number of participants)	(n=22,912)
Countries and setting	USA, Tennessee Medicaid files

Study	Ray 2016 <sup>483</sup>
Line of therapy	Not reported
Duration of study	14 years
Method of assessment of guideline condition	Unclear method of assessment/diagnosis: diagnosis of chronic pain
Stratum	NA
Subgroup analysis within study	Age: 25-65 and ≥65 years Co-prescribing: not reported
Inclusion criteria	Diagnosis of chronic pain (back, other musculoskeletal, abdominal, headache, other neurologic pain) in the past 90 days; filling a study drug prescription
Exclusion criteria	≥75 years; patients with cancer, other life threatening diseases or evidence of hospice or other terminal care; nursing home residents; discharged from hospital within 30 days, evidence of drug abuse; prescription filled in the prior year for any study drugs; starting daily dose not recommended for chronic pain or unusually high
Recruitment/selection of patients	Consecutive patients meeting the inclusion/exclusion criteria
Age, gender and ethnicity	Age - Mean (SD): 47.9 (10.5) years Gender: M:F 9174:13,738 Ethnicity: not reported
Further population details	NA
Extra comments	Patients could re-enter the cohort. 22,912 episodes of therapy: 20,405 unique patients
Indirectness of population	No indirectness
Interventions	n= 5584 receiving opioids for >180 days
Funding	Grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, grant from the national Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and grant from the Rheumatology Research Foundation
<b>RESULTS (NUMBERS ANALYSED) AND RISK OF BIAS: OPIOIDS</b>	
Protocol outcome: all-cause mortality - Actual outcome: all-cause mortality >180 days: 62/5584 (1.1%) Risk of bias: High ; Indirectness of outcome: no indirectness	
Protocol outcomes not reported by the study	cognitive impairment, fractures and falls, sexual dysfunction/endocrine impairment, immune dysfunction, sleep apnoea, cardiovascular events, self-harm/suicide, dependence, depressive symptoms/mood disturbances
Risk of bias details	See quality assessment

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## **D.3 Gabapentinoid safety**

3 None

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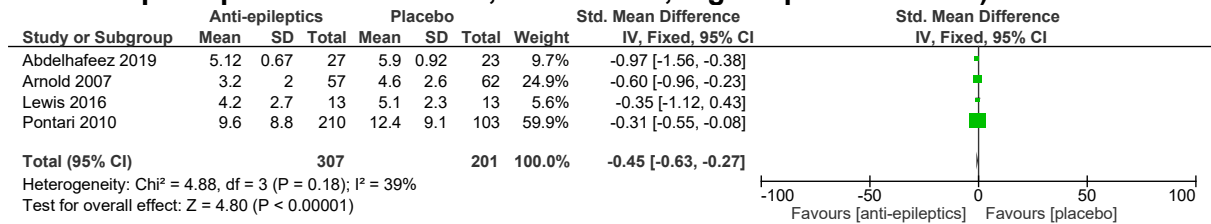
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# 1 Appendix E: Forest plots

## E.1 Pharmacological management

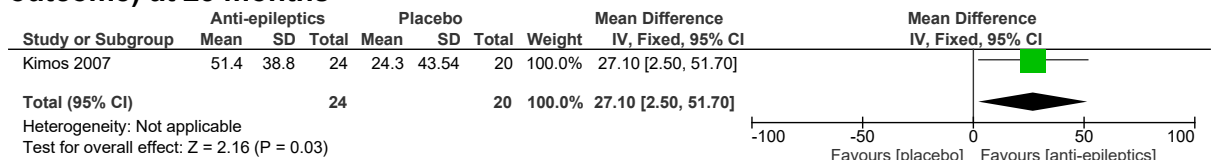
### E.1.3 Anti-epileptics versus placebo

**Figure 4: Pain final values (VAS, Brief Pain Inventory average severity score, McGill pain questionnaire score, final values, high is poor outcome) at ≤ 3 months**



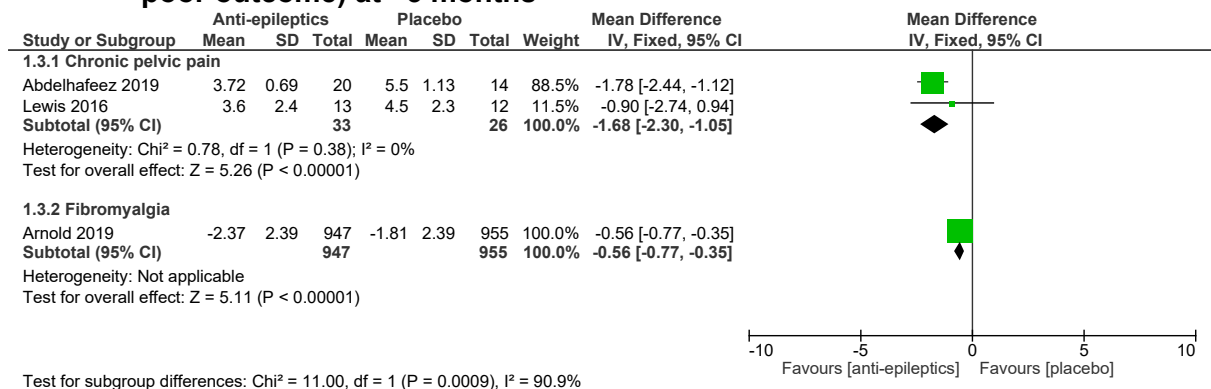
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**Figure 5: Pain reduction (VAS percentage reduction, change scores, high is good outcome) at ≤ 3 months**



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**Figure 6: Pain final values (VAS, ADPS, final values and change scores, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at > 3 months**

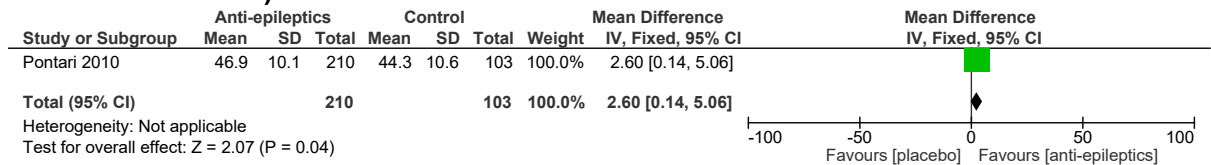


*Heterogeneity explained by subgroup analysis (subtype of chronic primary pain). However, the sample size of the chronic pelvic pain subgroup is small and imprecise (confidence intervals cross MID) Other meta-analyses within this guideline have not shown heterogeneity between the two subgroups. Evidence for chronic pelvic pain and fibromyalgia throughout the rest of the guideline has therefore not been separated.*

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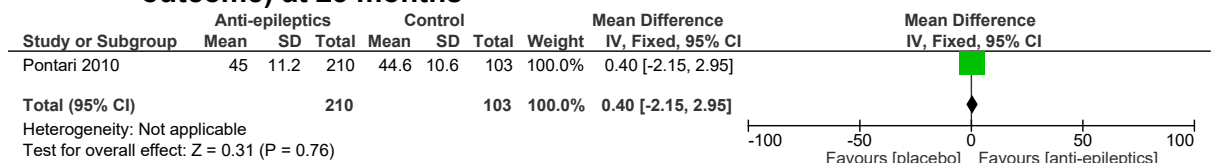
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**Figure 7: Quality of life (SF-12 physical component, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome) at ≤3 months**



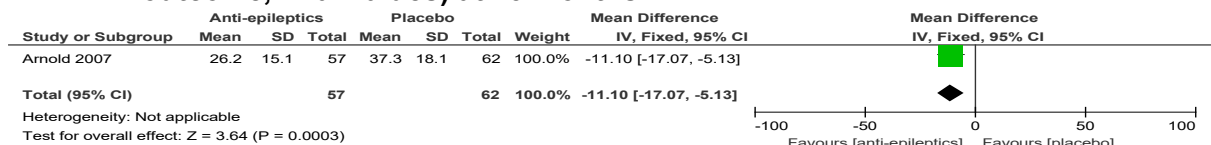
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**Figure 8: Quality of life (SF-12 mental component, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome) at ≤3 months**



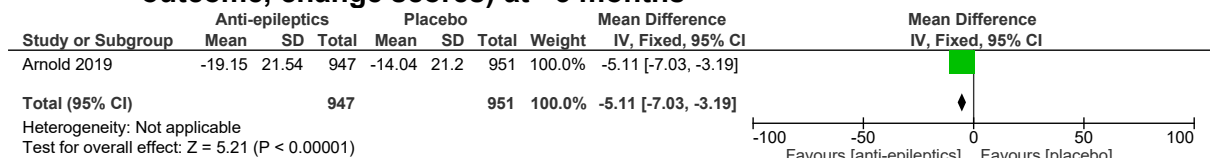
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**Figure 9: Quality of life (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months**



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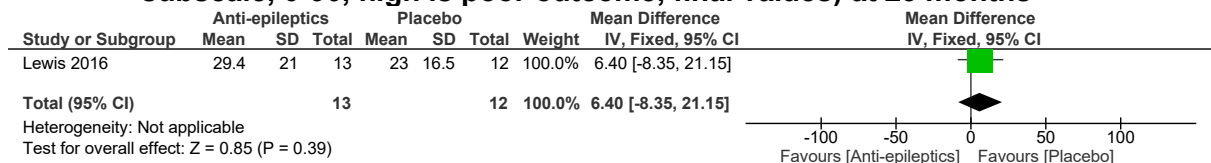
**Figure 10: Quality of life (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome, change scores) at >3 months**



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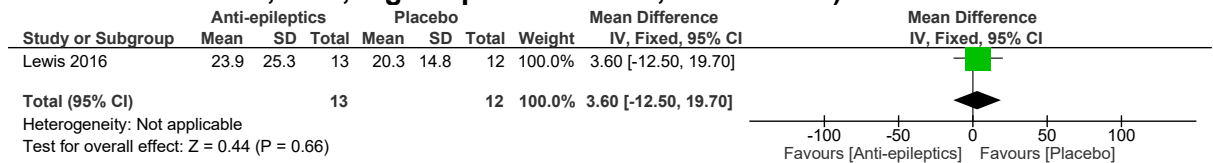
**Figure 11: Physical function final values (Pain Disability questionnaire, function subscale, 0-90, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months**



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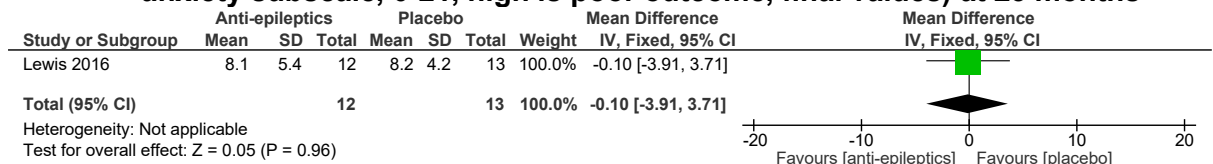


**Figure 12: Physical function final values (Pain Disability questionnaire, function subscale, 0-90, high is poor outcome, final values) at >3 months**



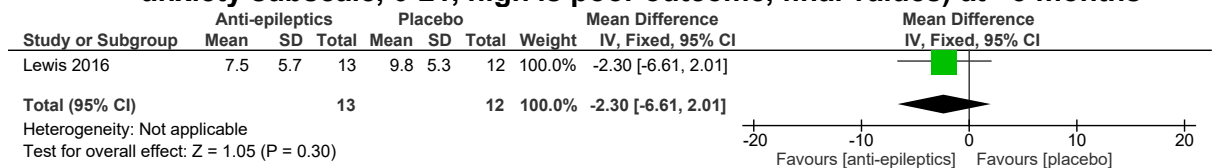
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**Figure 13: Psychological distress final values (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale anxiety subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months**



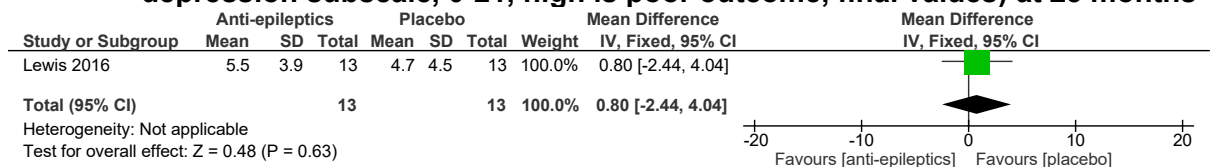
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**Figure 14: Psychological distress final values (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale anxiety subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values) at >3 months**



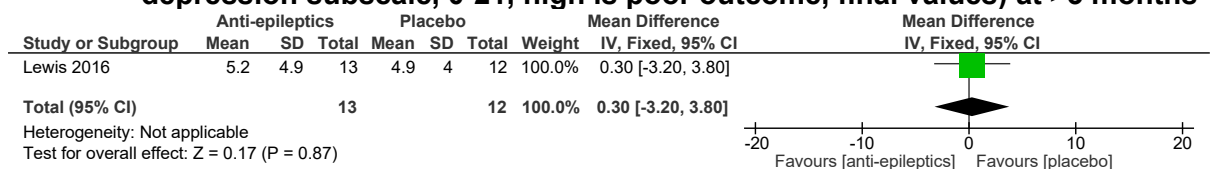
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**Figure 15: Psychological distress final values (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale depression subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months**



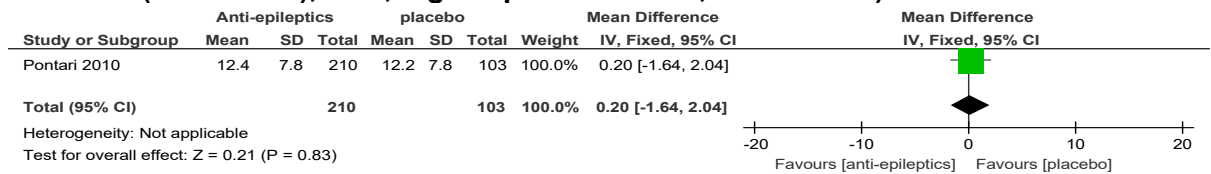
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**Figure 16: Psychological distress final values (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale depression subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values) at >3 months**



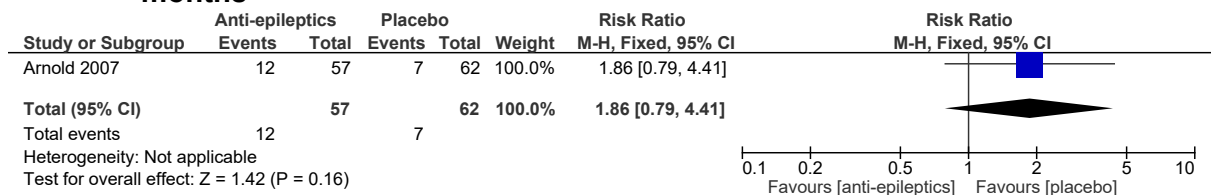
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**Figure 17: Psychological distress final values (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale (total score), 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months**



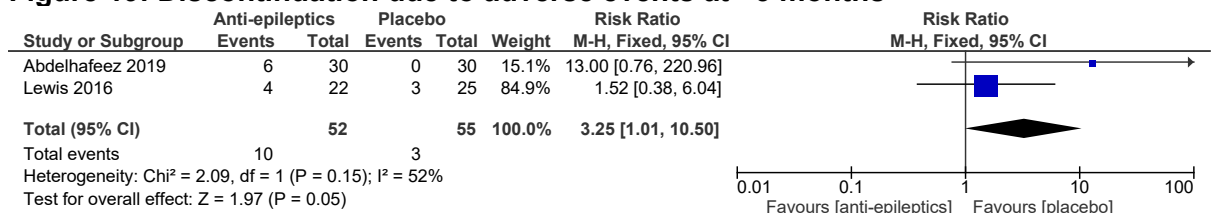
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**Figure 18: Discontinuation due to adverse events (reasons not specified) at ≤3 months**



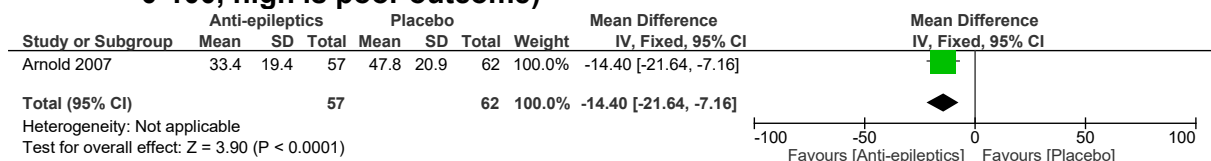
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**Figure 19: Discontinuation due to adverse events at >3 months**



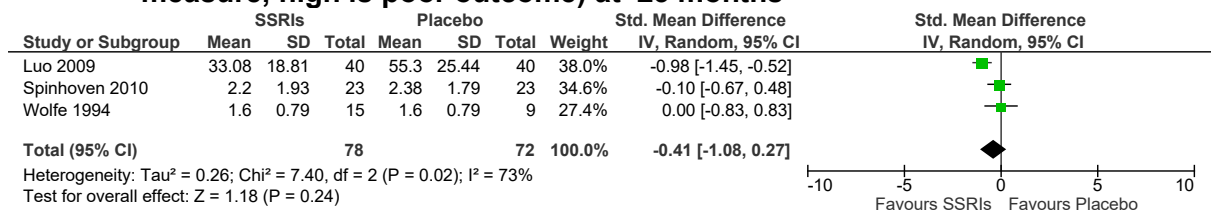
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**Figure 20: Sleep at ≤3 months (Medical Outcomes Study Sleep Problems index score, 0-100, high is poor outcome)**



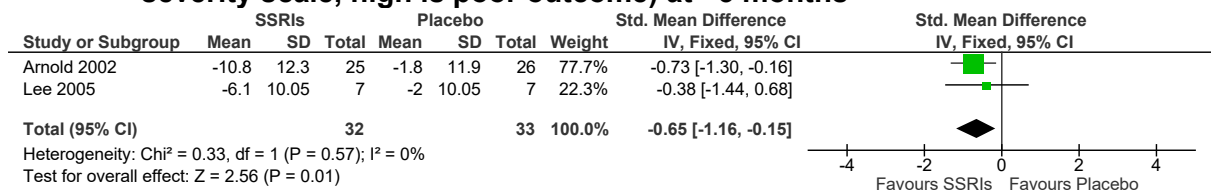
## E.14 SSRIs versus placebo

**Figure 21: Pain final values (VAS pain reduction, medical outcome study pain measure, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



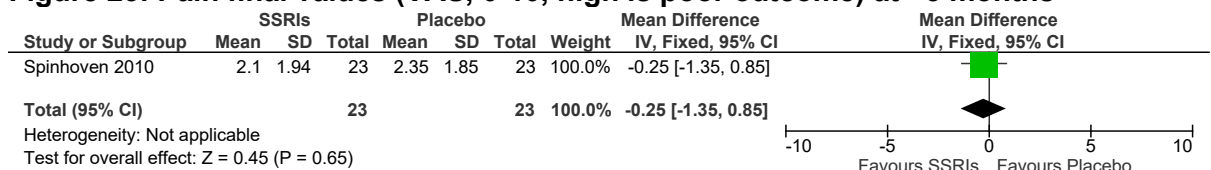
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**Figure 22: Pain change scores (McGill pain questionnaire and Prostatitis symptom severity scale, high is poor outcome) at >3 months**



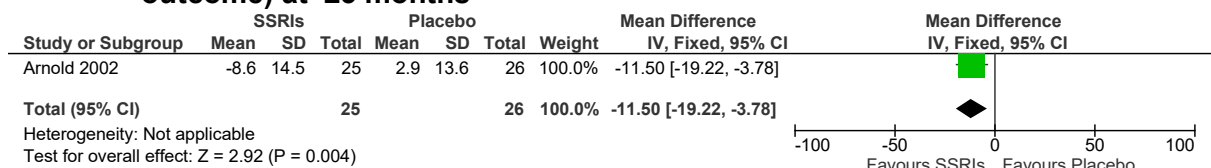
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**Figure 23: Pain final values (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at >3 months**



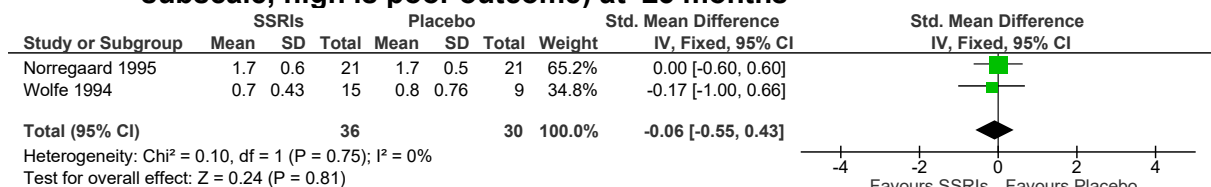
2

**Figure 24: Quality of life change scores (FIQ total scores, 0-100, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



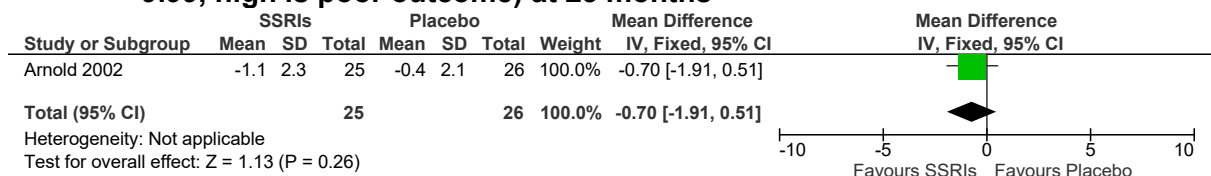
3

**Figure 25: Physical function final values (HAQ total scores, FIQ physical function subscale, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



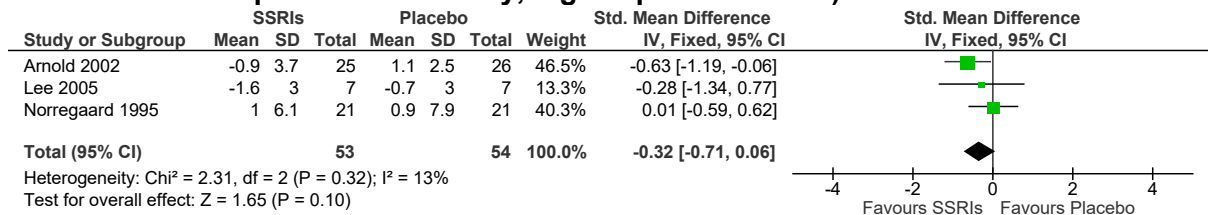
4

**Figure 26: Physical function change scores (Physical impairment FIQ subscale, 0-9.99, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



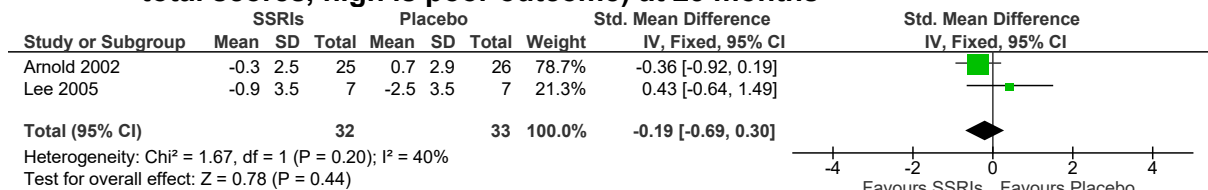
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**Figure 27: Psychological distress change scores (FIQ depression subscale, HADS-D, Beck depression inventory, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



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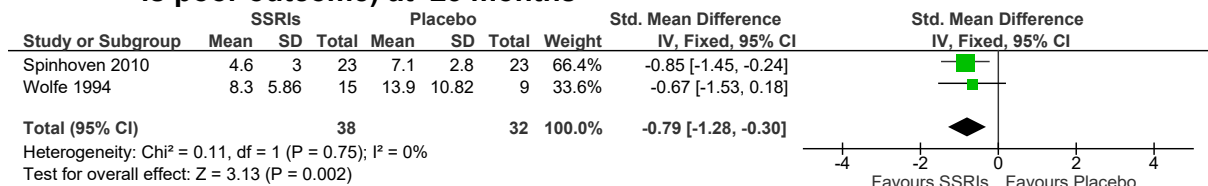
**Figure 28: Psychological distress change scores (FIQ anxiety subscale, AIMS anxiety total scores, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



2

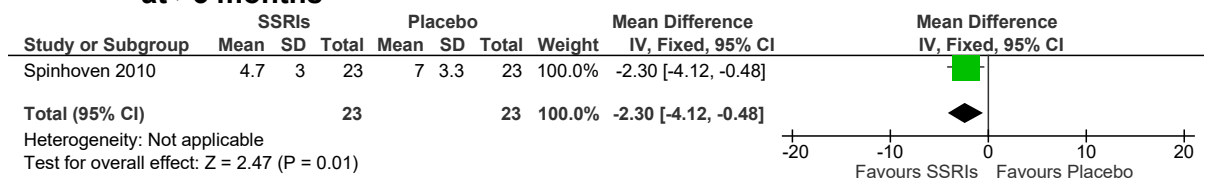
3

**Figure 29: Psychological distress final values (Beck depression scale, HADS:A, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**

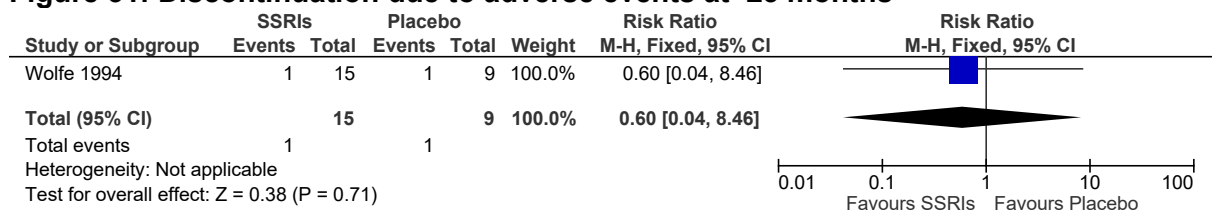


4

**Figure 30: Psychological distress final values (HADS-A, 0-21, high is poor outcome) at >3 months**

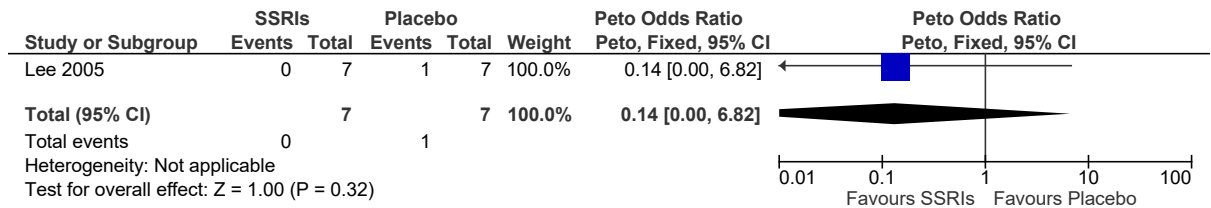


**Figure 31: Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months**



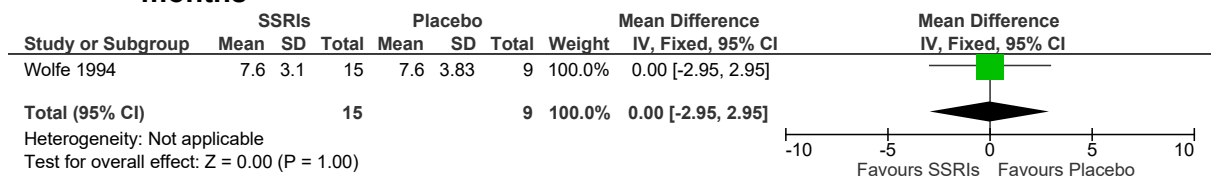
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**Figure 32: Discontinuation due to adverse events (due to gastrointestinal problems) at >3 months**



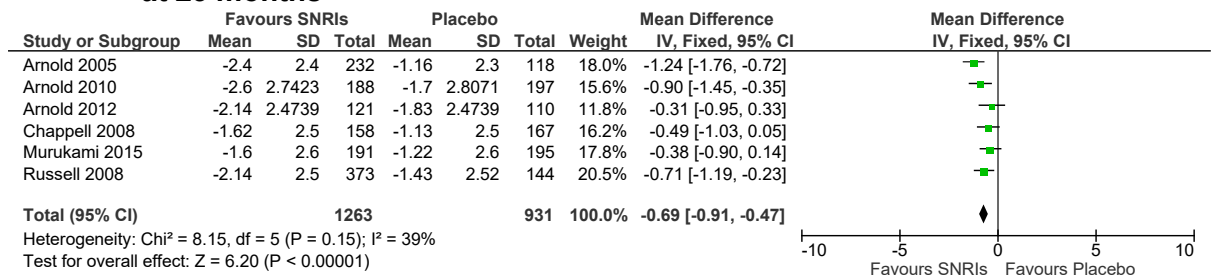
1

**Figure 33: Sleep final values (VAS sleep outcome, 0-15, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**

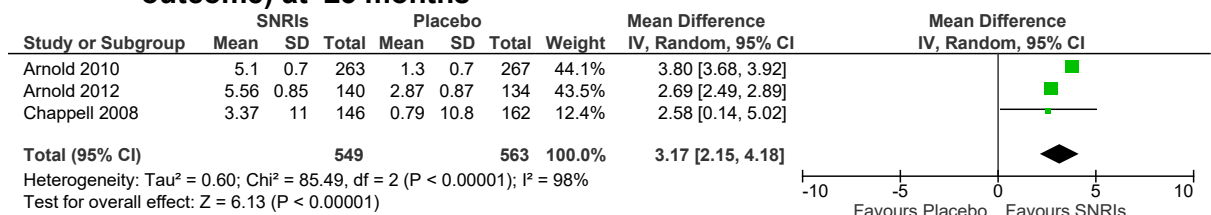


### E.1.23 SNRIs versus placebo

**Figure 34: Pain change scores (BPI average pain severity, VAS, high is poor outcome) at ≥3 months**

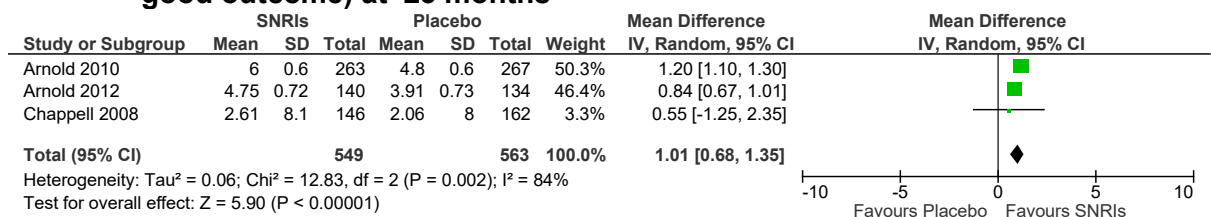


**Figure 35: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 mental component, 0-100, high is good outcome) at ≤3 months**



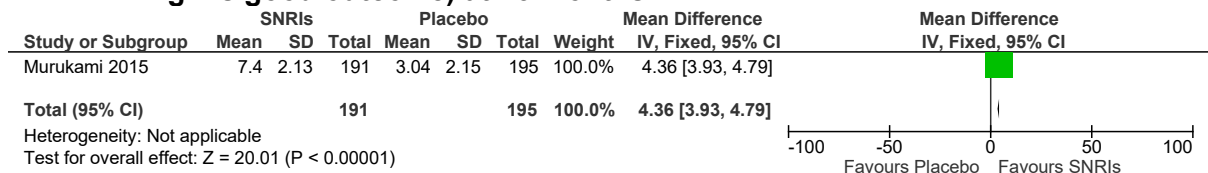
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**Figure 36: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 physical component, 0-100, high is good outcome) at ≤3 months**



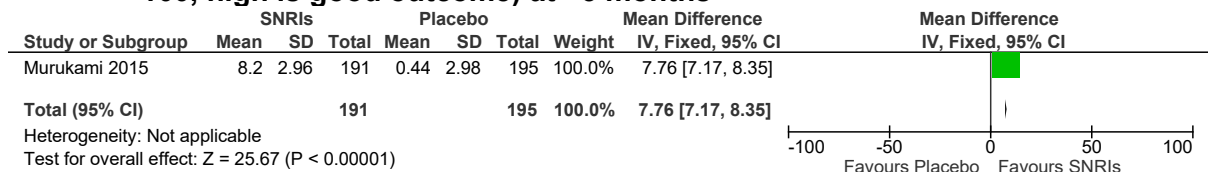
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**Figure 37: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 physical functioning subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



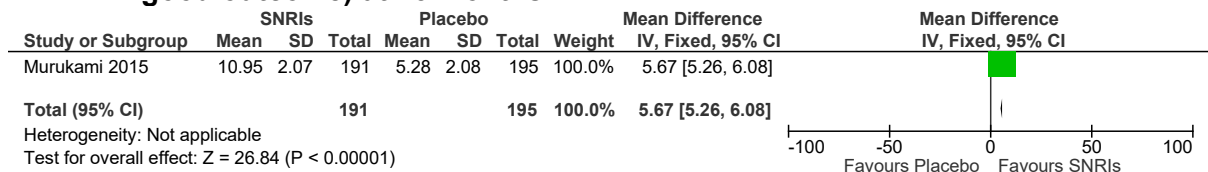
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**Figure 38: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 physical role limitations subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



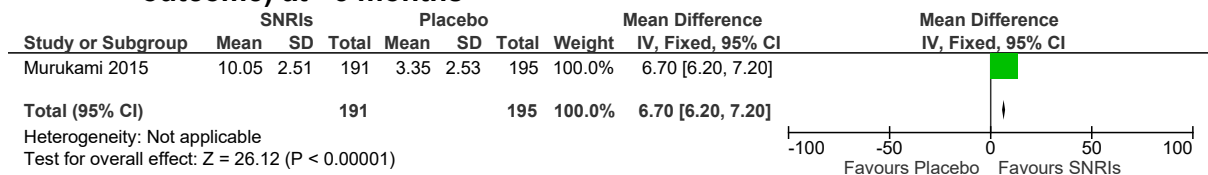
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**Figure 39: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 bodily pain subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



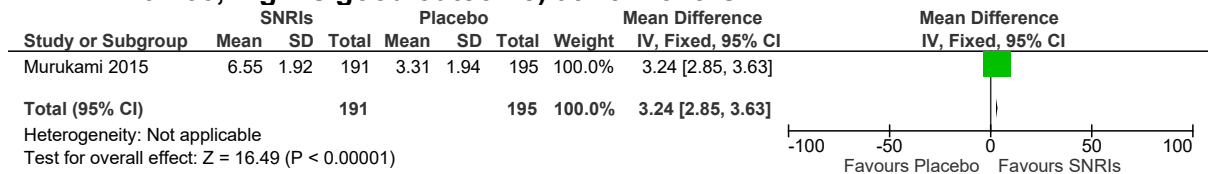
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**Figure 40: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 vitality subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



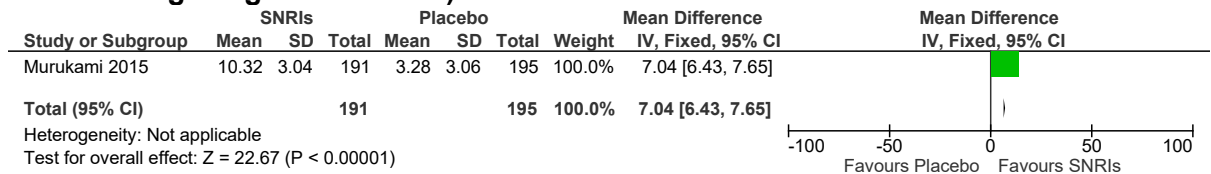
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**Figure 41: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 general health perceptions subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



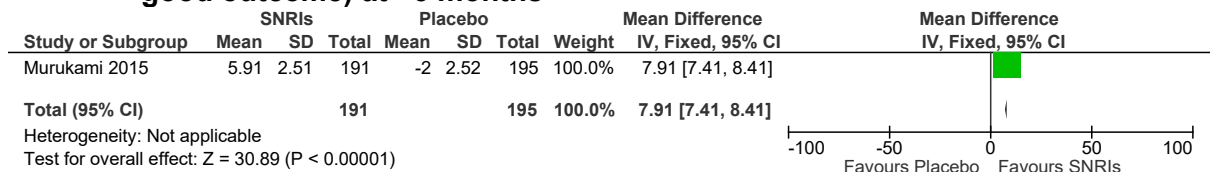
6

**Figure 42: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 social functioning subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



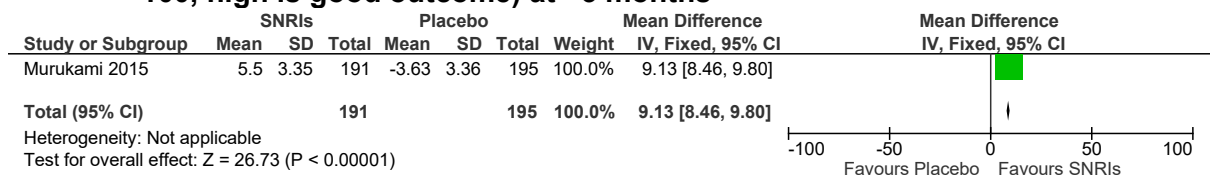
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**Figure 43: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 mental health subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



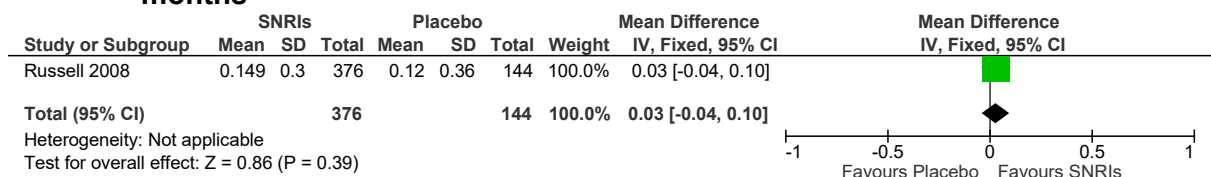
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**Figure 44: Quality of life change scores (SF-36 emotional role limitations subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



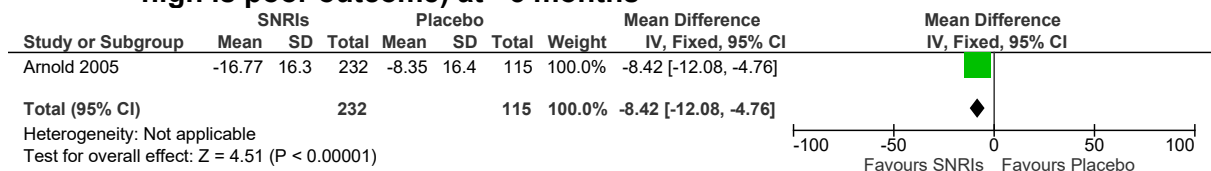
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**Figure 45: Quality of life change scores (EQ-5D, 0-1, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



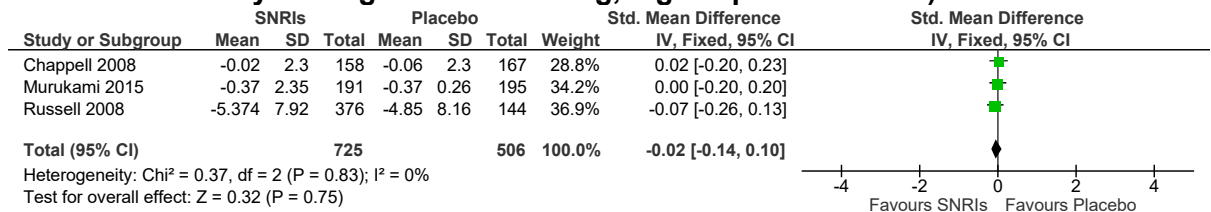
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**Figure 46: Quality of life change scores (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100 high is poor outcome) at >3 months**



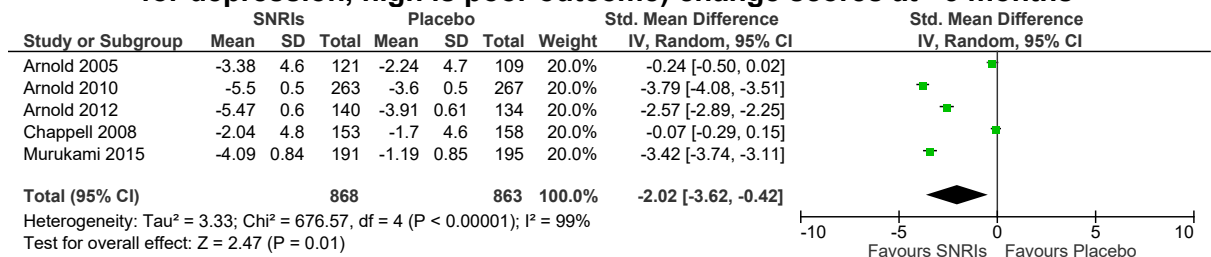
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**Figure 47: Physical function change scores (FIQ physical function subscale, Sheehan disability scale global functioning, high is poor outcome) at >3 months**



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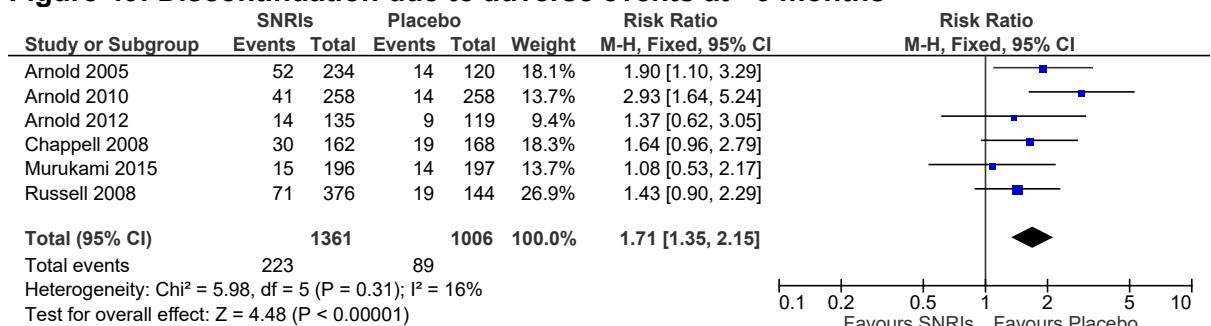
**Figure 48: Psychological distress (Beck depression inventory, Hamilton rating scale for depression, high is poor outcome) change scores at >3 months**



2

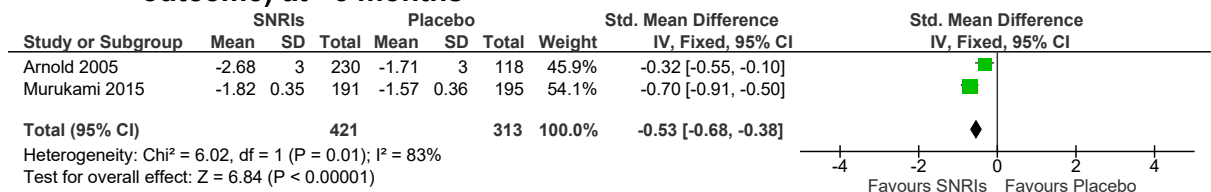
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**Figure 49: Discontinuation due to adverse events at >3 months**



4

**Figure 50: Sleep (Jenkins composite score, BPI interference score sleep, high is poor outcome) at >3 months**

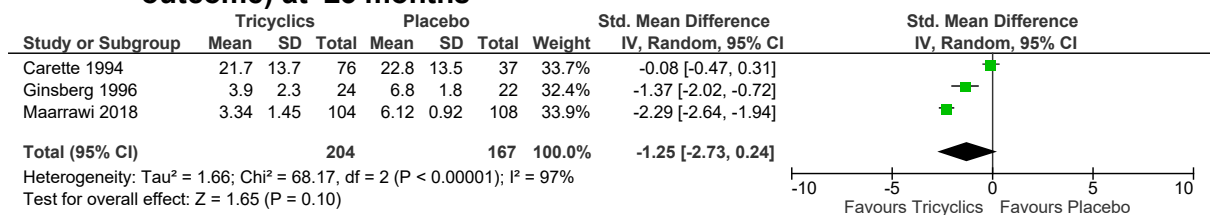


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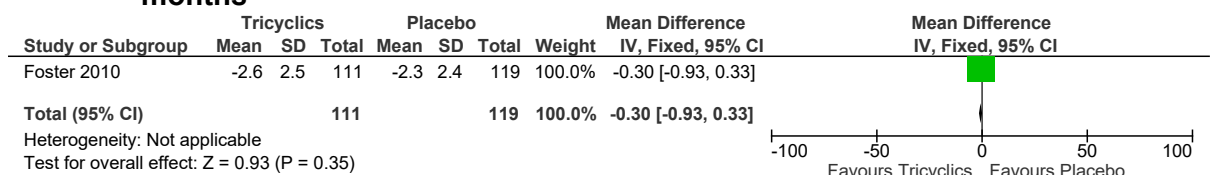
### E.1.14 Tricyclic antidepressants versus placebo

**Figure 51: Pain (VAS and McGill pain questionnaire final values, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



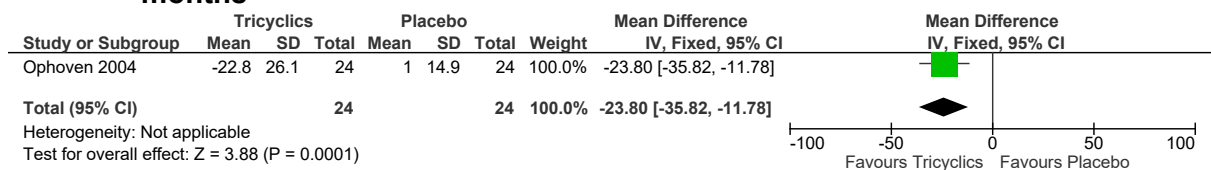
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**Figure 52: Pain reduction (VAS 0-10 change scores, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



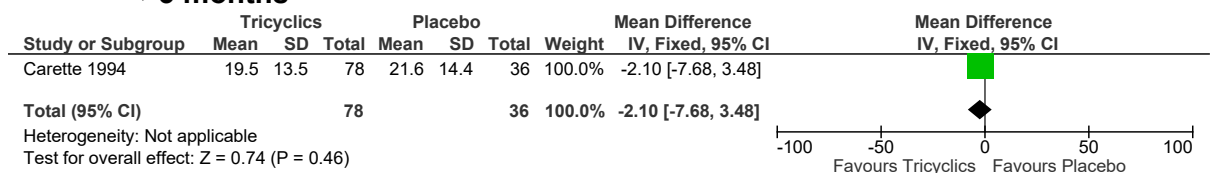
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**Figure 53: Pain reduction (VAS, change scores, 0-100, high is poor outcome) at >3 months**

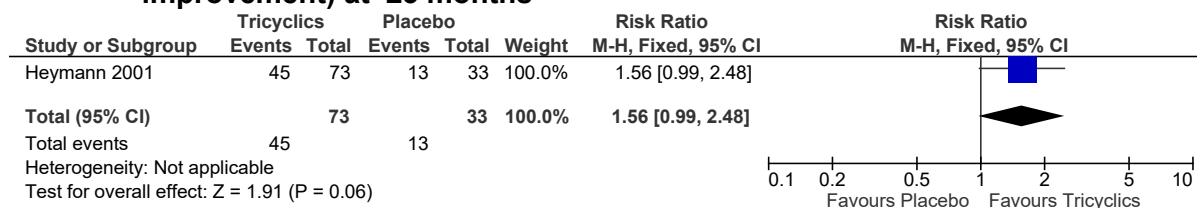


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**Figure 54: Pain final values (McGill pain questionnaire, 0-78, high is poor outcome) at >3 months**

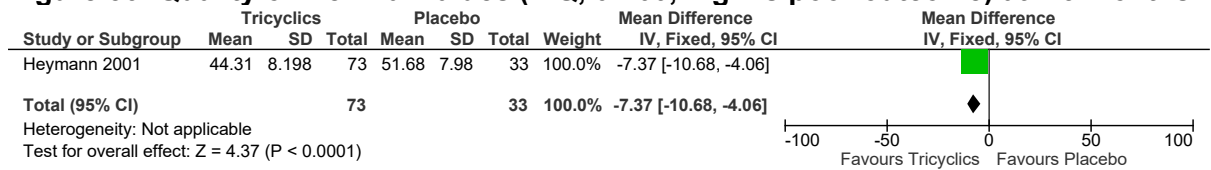


**Figure 55: Number of responders (Scale of global improvement, great or moderate improvement) at ≤3 months**



5

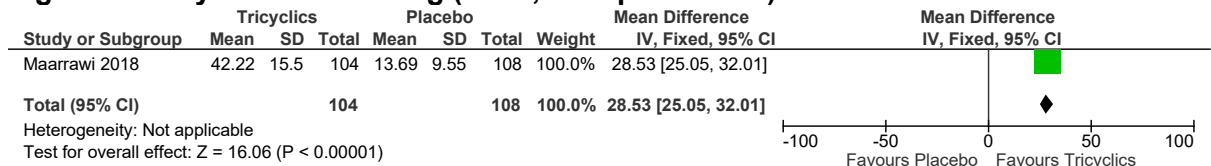
**Figure 56: Quality of life final values (FIQ, 0-100, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



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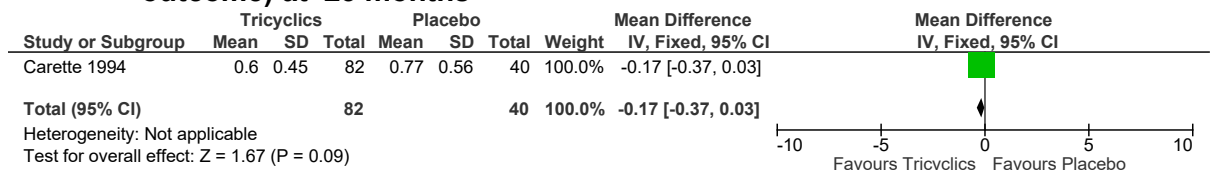
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**Figure 57: Physical functioning (NPDI, % improvement) at ≤3 months**



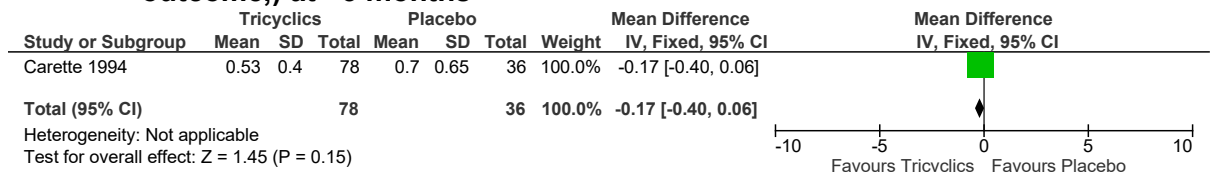
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**Figure 58: Physical function final values (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



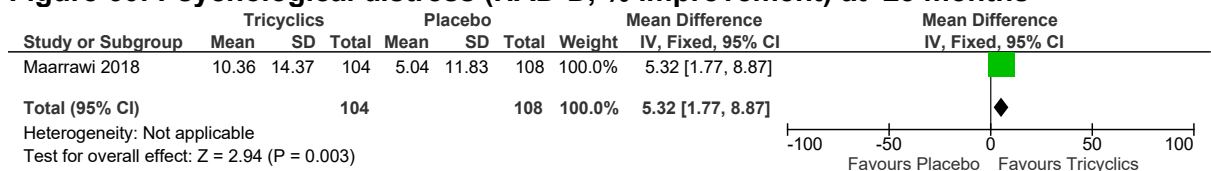
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**Figure 59: Physical function final values (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome,) at >3 months**



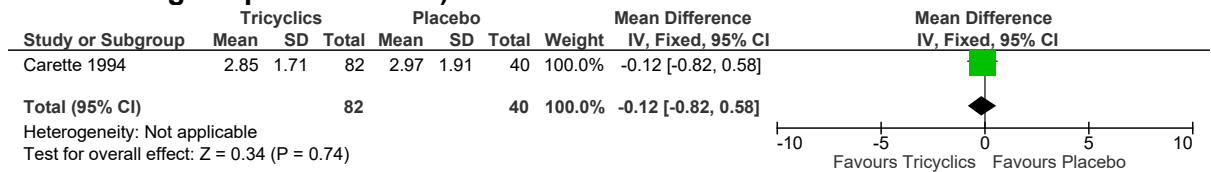
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**Figure 60: Psychological distress (HAD-D, % improvement) at ≤3 months**



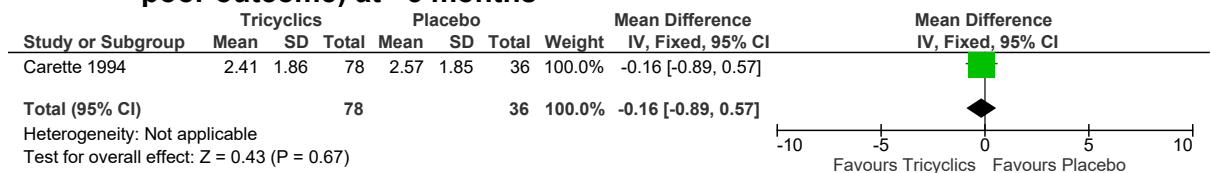
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**Figure 61: Psychological distress final values (AIMS depression component, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



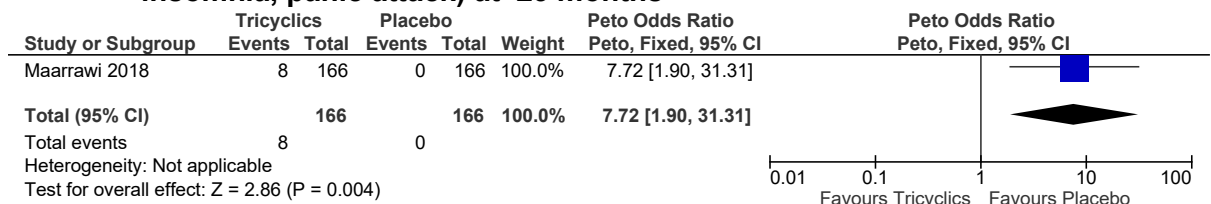
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**Figure 62: Psychological distress final values (AIMS depression scale, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at >3 months**



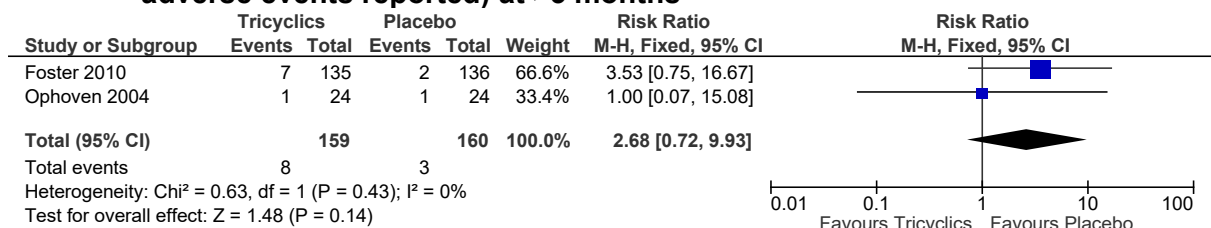
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**Figure 63: Discontinuation due to adverse events (due to drowsiness, palpitations, insomnia, panic attack) at ≤3 months**



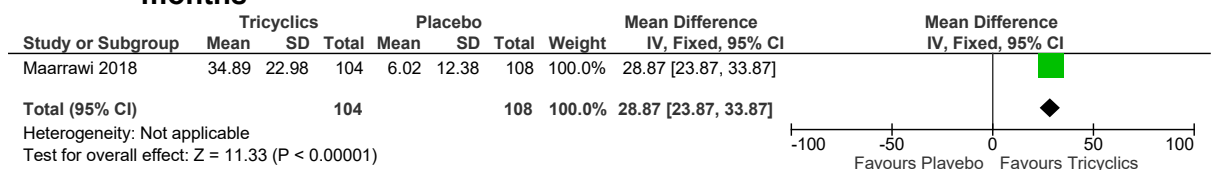
3

**Figure 64: Discontinuation due to adverse events (reasons not specified, no serious adverse events reported) at >3 months**



4

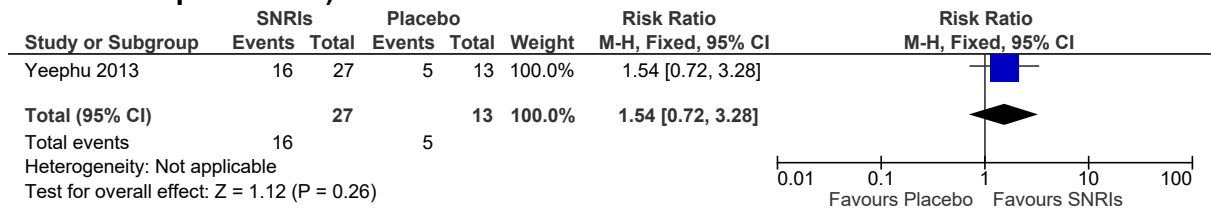
**Figure 65: Sleep disturbance (Bisprectal index scale, percentage improvement) at ≤3 months**



## E.15 Tetracyclic antidepressants versus placebo

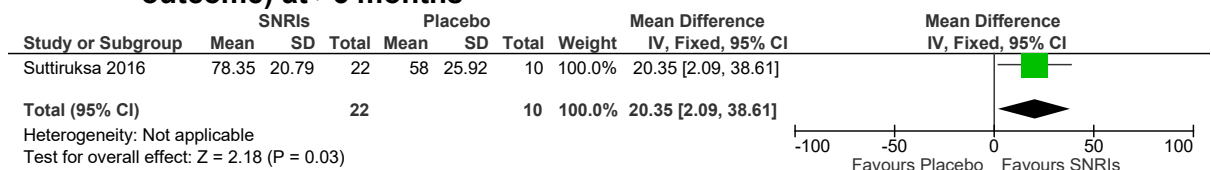
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**Figure 66: Number of responders (VAS total score, VAS 24hr morning recall, 30% improvement) at >3 months**



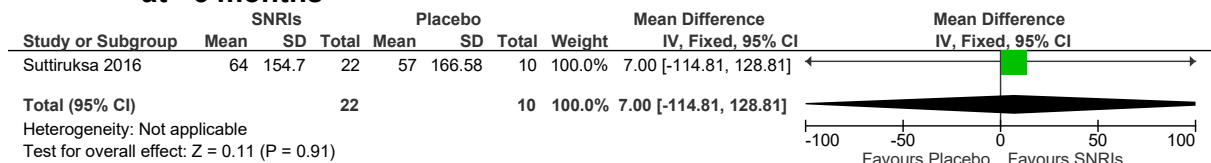
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**Figure 67: Quality of life (SF-36 physical functioning subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



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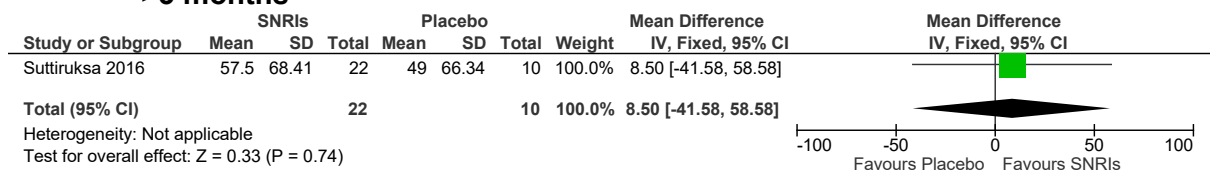
**Figure 68: Quality of life (SF-36 physical role subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



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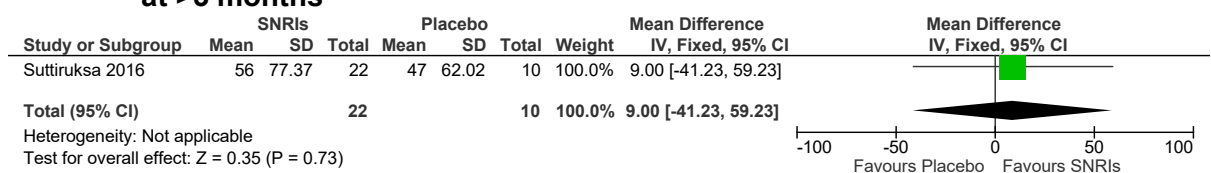
**Figure 69: Quality of life (SF-36 bodily pain subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



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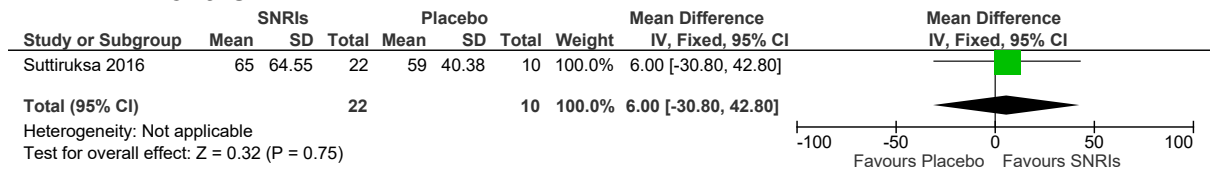
**Figure 70: Quality of life (SF-36 general health subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



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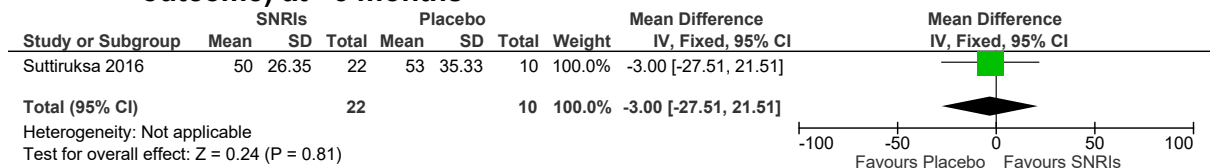
**Figure 71: Quality of life (SF-36 vitality subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



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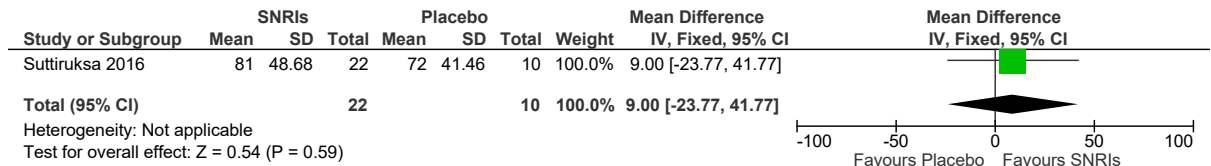
**Figure 72: Quality of life (SF-36 social functioning subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



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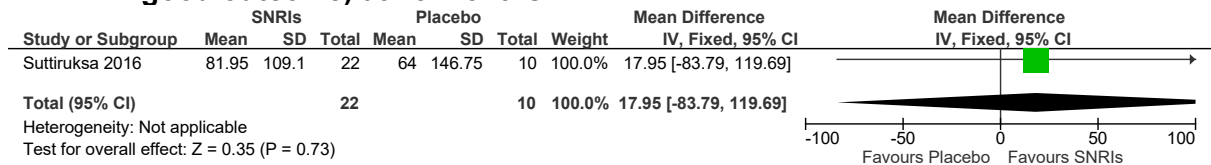
**Figure 73: Quality of life (SF-36 mental health subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



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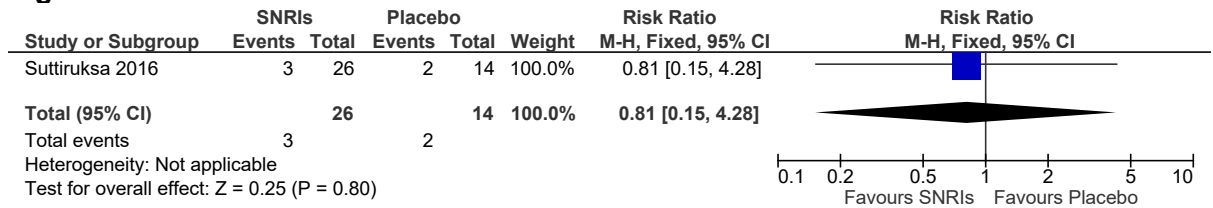
**Figure 74: Quality of life (SF-36 emotional role limitations subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at >3 months**



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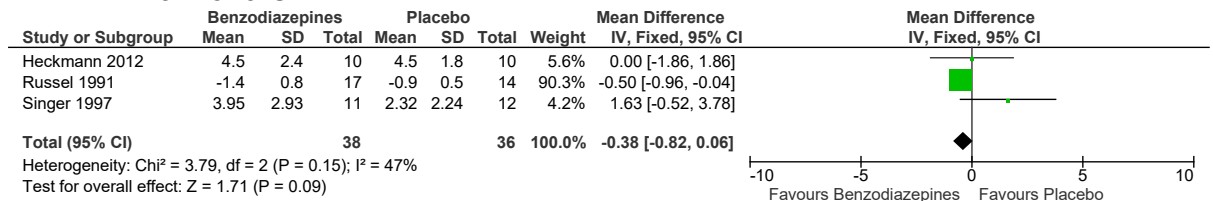
**Figure 75: Discontinuation at >3 months**



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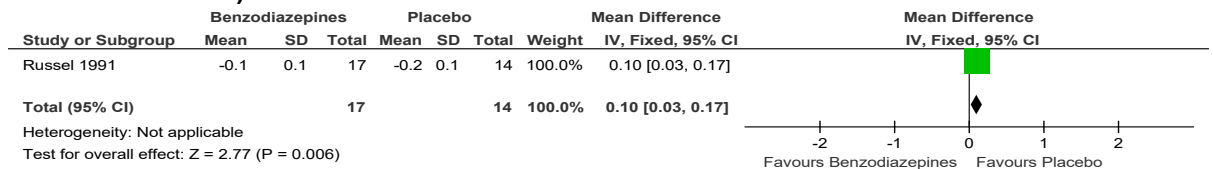
**E.1.16 Benzodiazepines versus placebo**

**Figure 76: Pain final values and change scores (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



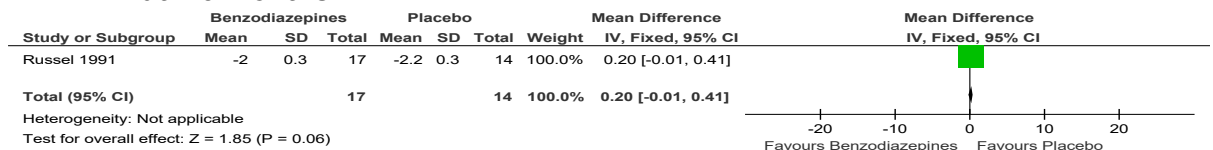
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**Figure 77: Physical function (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months**



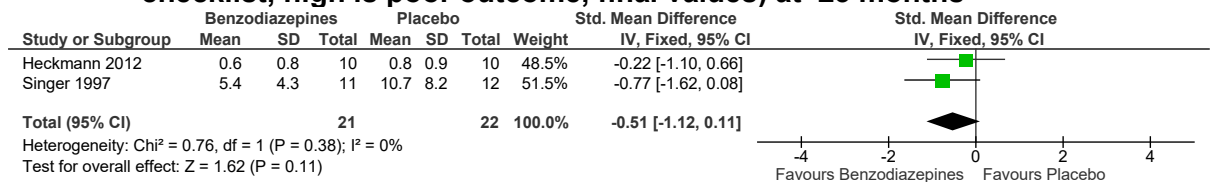
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**Figure 78: Psychological distress (CES-D, 0-30 high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months**



6

**Figure 79: Psychological distress (Beck depression inventory, depression adjective checklist, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months**

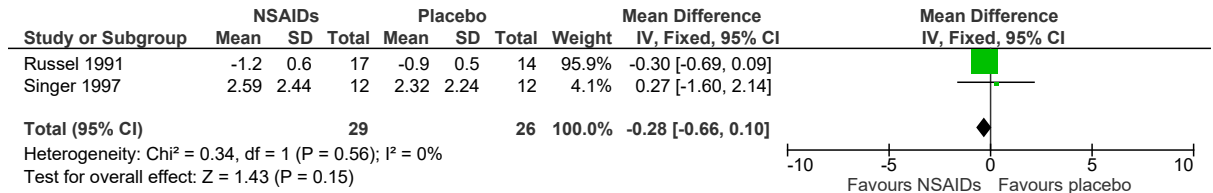


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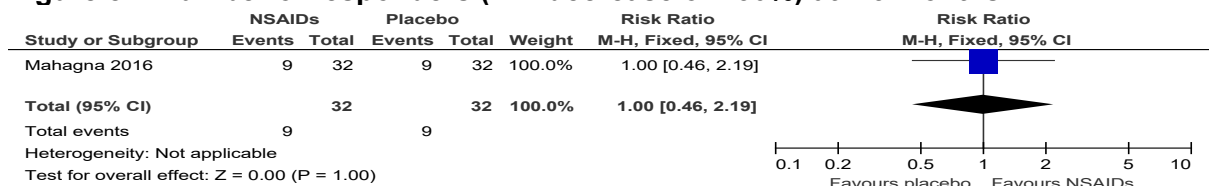
**E.17 Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs versus placebo**

**Figure 80: Pain change scores and final values (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



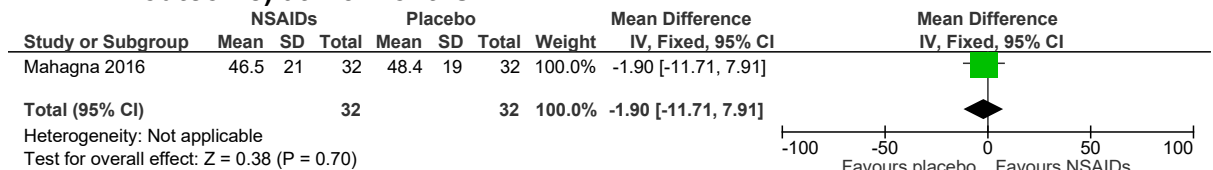
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**Figure 81: Number of responders (BPI decrease of >30%) at ≤3 months**



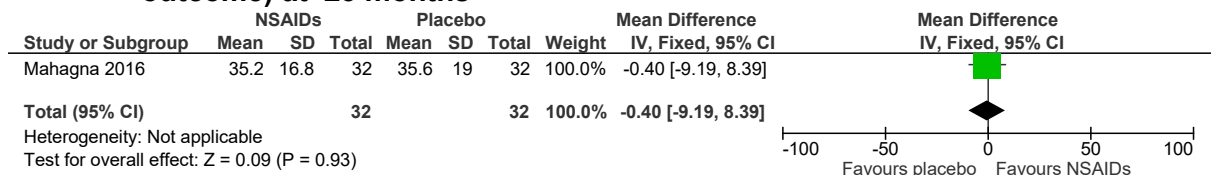
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**Figure 82: Quality of life final values (SF-36 mental component, 0-100, high is good outcome) at ≤3 months**



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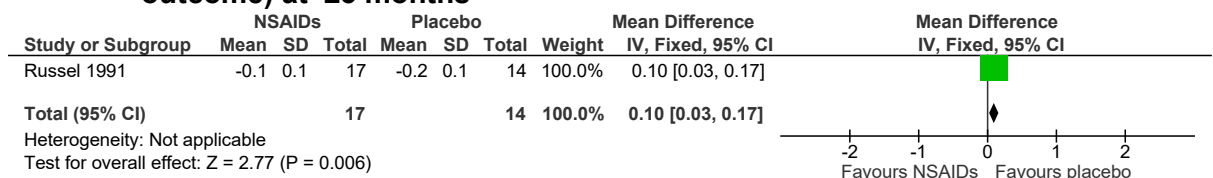
**Figure 83: Quality of life final values (SF-36 physical component, 0-100, high is good outcome) at ≤3 months**



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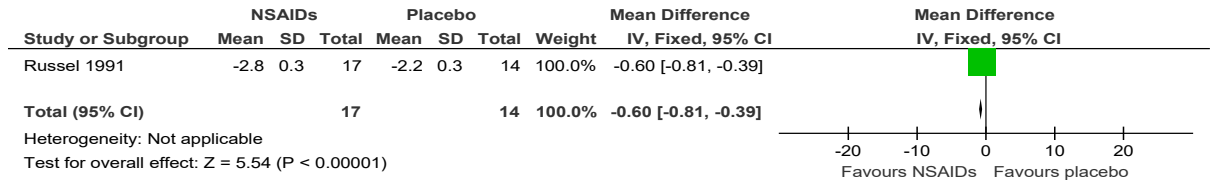
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**Figure 84: Physical function change scores (HAQ disability index 0-3, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



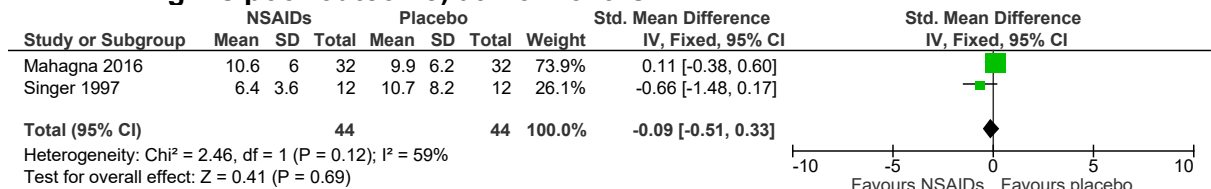
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**Figure 85: Psychological distress change scores (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



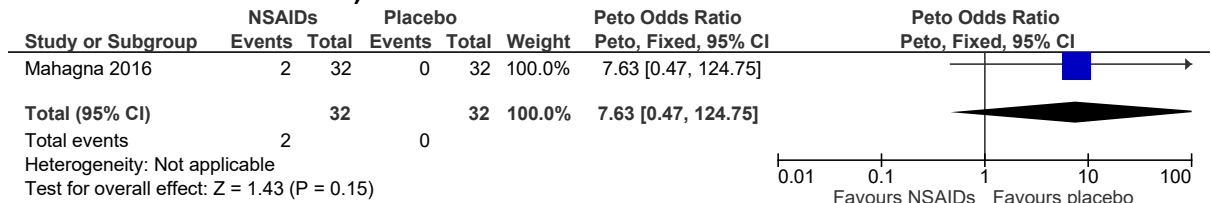
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**Figure 86: Psychological distress final values (HAM-D, depression adjective checklist, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



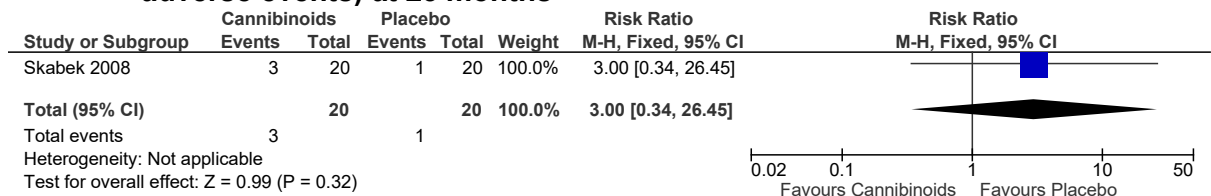
5

**Figure 87: Discontinuation due to adverse events (reasons not specified, no serious adverse events) at ≤3 months**



## E.168 Cannabinoids versus placebo

**Figure 88: Discontinuation due to adverse events (reasons not specified, no serious adverse events) at ≤3 months**

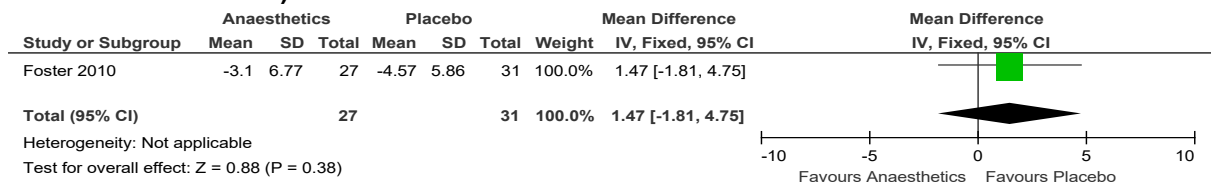


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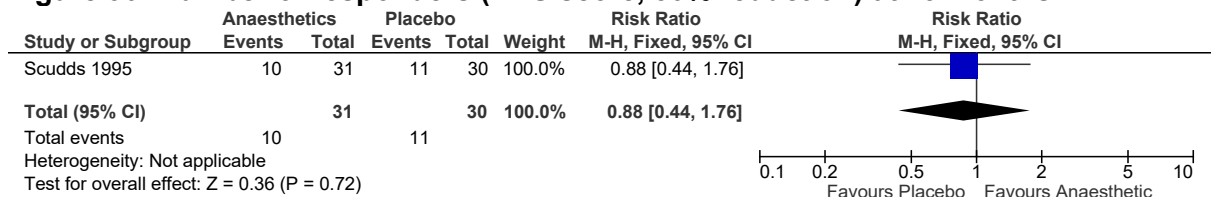
### E.1.9 Local anaesthetics versus placebo

**Figure 89: Pain reduction change scores (VAS total score, 0-10, high is poor outcomes) at ≤3 months**



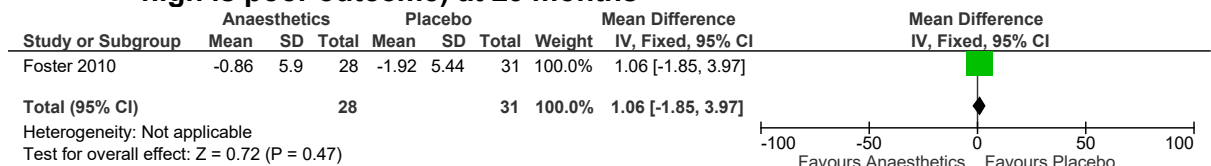
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**Figure 90: Number of responders (VAS score, 30% reduction) at ≤3 months**



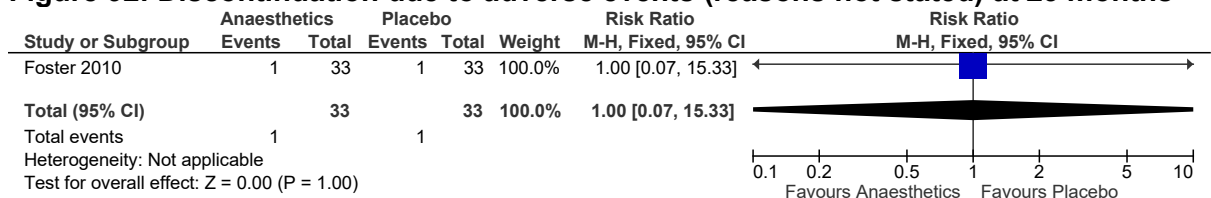
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**Figure 91: Psychological distress change scores (Beck depression inventory, 0-63, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



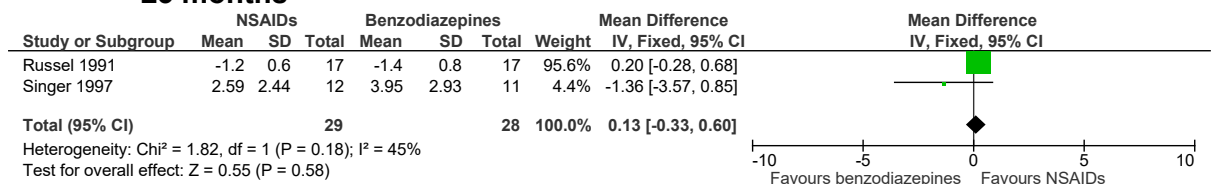
4

**Figure 92: Discontinuation due to adverse events (reasons not stated) at ≤3 months**



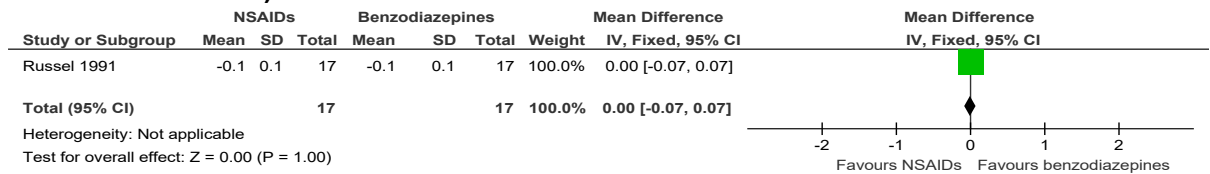
### E.1.10 NSAIDs versus benzodiazepines

**Figure 93: Pain change scores and final values (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



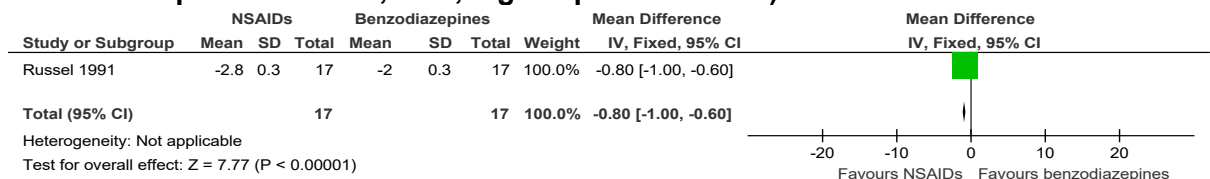
6

**Figure 94: Physical function changes scores (HAQ disability index , 0-3, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



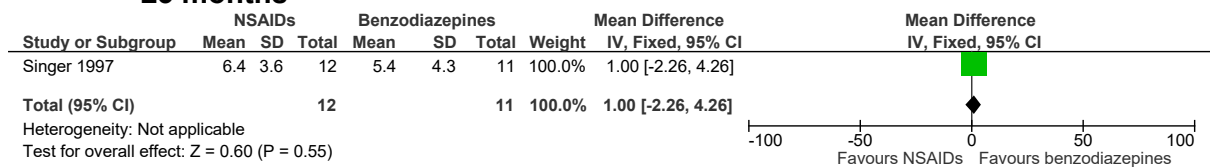
1

**Figure 95: Psychological distress change scores (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**



2

**Figure 96: Psychological distress final values (HAM-D, 0-21, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months**

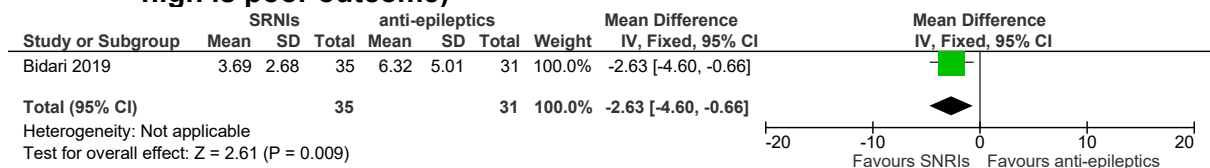


3

**E.1.14 SNRIs versus anti-epileptics**

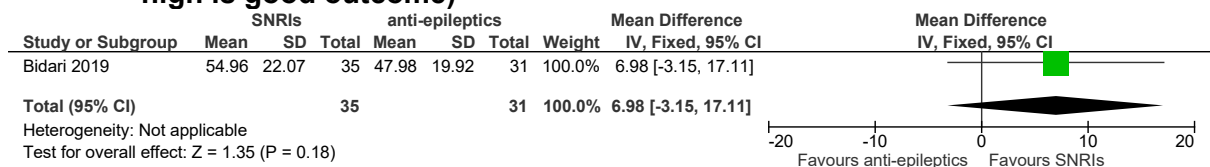
5

**Figure 97: Pain reduction at <3 months (Widespread Pain Index, 0-19, final values, high is poor outcome)**



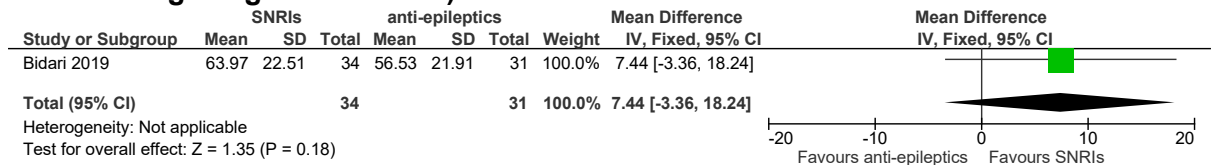
6

**Figure 98: Quality of life at <3 months (SF-12 Physical component, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome)**



7

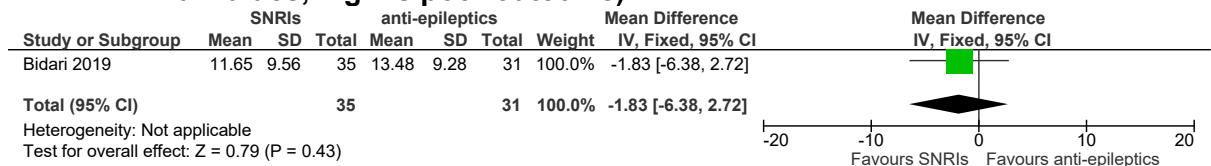
**Figure 99: Quality of life at <3 months (SF-12 Mental component, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome)**



Note: Significant difference in outcome at baseline may affect final values. Baselines, mean (SD): SNRI group 56.69 (24.33), anti-epileptics group 45.77 (27.31)

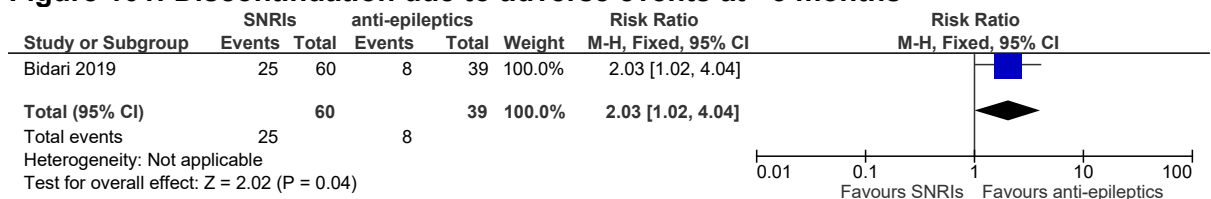
1

**Figure 100: Psychological distress at <3 months (Beck Depression Inventory-II, 0-63, final values, high is poor outcome)**



2

**Figure 101: Discontinuation due to adverse events at <3 months**



3

## E.2 Opioid safety

5 None

6

## E.3 Gabapentinoid safety

8 None

9

10

# 1 Appendix F: GRADE tables

## F.1 Pharmacological management

3 Table 21: Clinical evidence profile: Anti-epileptics versus placebo

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Anti-epileptics versus placebo	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
<b>Pain reduction at ≤3 months (VAS, Brief Pain Inventory average pain severity score, range, McGill pain questionnaire, high is poor outcome, final values)</b>												
4	randomised trials	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	307	201	-	SMD 0.45 lower (0.63 to 0.27 lower)	⊕⊕⊕O MODERATE	CRITICAL
<b>Pain reduction at ≤3 months (VAS percentage reduction, change scores)</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	24	20	-	MD 27.1 higher (2.5 to 51.7 higher)	⊕OOO VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Pain reduction at &gt;3 months (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome, final values, change scores); chronic pelvic pain subgroup</b>												
2	randomised trials	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	33	26	-	MD 1.68 lower (2.3 lower to 1.05 lower)	⊕⊕OO LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Pain reduction at &gt;3 months (Average daily pain score, 0-10, change scores, high is poor outcome, final values); fibromyalgia subgroup</b>												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	947	955	-	MD 0.56 lower (0.77 lower to 0.35 lower)	HIGH	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life at ≤3 months (SF-12 physical component, high is good outcome, 0-100, final values)</b>												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	210	103	-	MD 2.6 higher (0.14 to 5.06 lower)	⊕⊕⊕O MODERATE	CRITICAL

Quality of life ≤3 months (SF-12 mental component, high is good outcome, 0-100, final values)												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	210	103	-	MD 0.4 higher (2.15 lower to 2.95 higher)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Quality of life at ≤3 months (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome, final values)												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	57	62	-	MD 11.1 lower (17.07 to 5.13 lower)	LOW	CRITICAL
Quality of life at >3 months (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome, change scores)												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	No serious imprecision	none	947	945	-	MD 5.11 lower (7.03 to 3.19 lower)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Physical function at ≤3 months (Pain Disability Questionnaire function subscale, 0-90, high is poor outcome, final values)												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	13	12	-	MD 6.4 higher (8.35 lower to 21.15 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Physical function at >3 months (Pain Disability Questionnaire function subscale, 0-90 high is poor outcome)												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>1</sup>	none	13	12	-	MD 3.6 higher (12.5 lower to 19.7 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale anxiety subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)												
1	randomised trials	serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>1</sup>	none	12	13	-	MD 0.1 lower (3.91 lower to 3.71 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Psychological distress at >3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale anxiety subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)												
1	randomised trials	serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	13	12	-	MD 2.3 lower (6.61 lower to 2.01 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale depression subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)												
1	randomised trials	serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>1</sup>	none	13	13	-	MD 0.8 higher (2.44 lower to 4.04 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Psychological distress at >3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale depression subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)												

1	randomised trials	serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	13	12	-	MD 0.3 higher (3.2 lower to 3.8 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	210	103	-	MD 0.2 higher (1.64 lower to 2.04 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	CRITICAL
<b>Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (reasons not specified)</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>1</sup>	none	12/57 (21.1%)	7/62 (11.3%)	RR 1.86 (0.79 to 4.41)	97 more per 1000 (from 24 fewer to 385 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Discontinuation due to adverse events at &gt;3 months (reasons not specified)</b>												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	4/22 (18.2%)	3/25 (12%)	RR 1.52 (0.38 to 6.04)	62 more per 1000 (from 74 fewer to 605 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
<b>Sleep at ≤3 months (Medical Outcomes Study Sleep Problems index score, 0-100, high is poor outcome, final values)</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	57	62	-	MD 14.4 lower (21.64 to 7.16 lower)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	IMPORTANT

- 1 1 Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.
- 2 2 Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias
- 3

4 **Table 22: Clinical evidence profile: SSRIs versus placebo**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	SSRIs versus placebo	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		

Pain reduction final values (VAS , medical outcomes study pain measure, high is poor outcome) ≤3 months												
3	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	78	72	-	SMD 0.41 lower (1.08 lower to 0.27 higher)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Pain reduction change scores (McGill pain questionnaire, Prostatitis symptom severity scale, high is poor outcome) at >3 months												
2	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	32	33	-	SMD 0.65 lower (1.16 to 0.15 lower)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Pain reduction (VAS final values, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at >3 months												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	23	23	-	MD 0.25 lower (1.35 lower to 0.85 higher)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Quality of life at ≤3 months (FIQ total scores, 0-100, high is poor outcome, change scores)												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	25	26	-	MD 11.5 lower (19.22 to 3.78 lower)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Physical function (HAQ total scores, FIQ physical function subscale, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months												
2	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	36	30	-	SMD 0.06 lower (0.55 lower to 0.43 higher)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Physical function (physical impairment on Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-9.99, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months												

1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	25	26	-	MD 0.7 lower (1.91 to 0.51 lower)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress (FIQ depression subscale, HADS-D, beck depression inventory, high is poor outcome) change scores ≤3 months</b>												
3	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	53	54	-	SMD 0.32 lower (0.71 to lower 0.06 higher)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress (FIQ anxiety subscale, AIMS anxiety, high is poor outcome) change scores at ≤3 months</b>												
2	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	32	33	-	SMD 0.19 lower (0.69 lower to 0.3 higher)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress (Beck depression scale, HADS:A, high is poor outcome) final values at ≤3 months</b>												
2	randomised trials	very serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	36	34	-	SMD 0.79 lower (1.28 to 0.3 lower)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress (HADS:A, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values) at &gt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	24	22	-	MD 2.3 lower (4.12 lower to 0.48 higher)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (due to gastrointestinal problems)</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	1/15 (6.7%)	1/9 (11.1%)	RR 0.6 (0.04 to 8.46)	44 fewer per 1000 (from 107 fewer to 829 more)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL



Discontinuation due to adverse events at >3 months (reasons not stated due to no events in intervention arm; placebo discontinuation due to feeling 'spaced out')												
2	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	1/29 (3.4%)	14.3%	OR 0.14 (0.00 to 6.82)	100 fewer per 1000 (from 136 fewer to 107 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Sleep (VAS sleep outcome, 0-15, high is poor outcome) final values at ≤3 months												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	15	9	-	MD 0 higher (2.95 lower to 2.95 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	IMPORTANT

1 Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias

2 Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

3 Downgraded due to heterogeneity, unexplained by subgroup analysis

4 **Table 23: Clinical evidence profile: SNRIs versus placebo**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	SNRIs versus placebo	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Pain reduction (Brief Pain Inventory average pain severity, VAS, high is poor outcome) change scores at ≥3 months												
6	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	1263	931	-	MD 0.69 lower (0.91 to 0.47 lower)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Quality of life (SF-36 mental component, low is poor outcome) change scores at <3 months												

3	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	549	563	-	MD 3.17 higher (2.15 to 4.18 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 physical component, low is poor outcome) change scores at &lt;3 months (7-12 weeks)</b>												
3	randomised trials	serious <sup>3</sup>	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	549	563	-	MD 1.01 higher (0.68 to 1.35 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 physical functioning subscale, 0-100, changes scores, high is good outcome) at ≥3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	191	195	-	MD 4.36 higher (3.93 to 4.79 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 physical role limitations subscale, 0-100, changes scores, high is good outcome) at ≥3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	191	195	-	MD 7.76 higher (7.17 to 8.35 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 bodily pain subscale, 0-100, changes scores, high is good outcome) at ≥3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	191	195	-	MD 5.67 higher (5.26 to 6.08 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 vitality subscale, 0-100, high is good outcome) at ≥3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	191	195	-	MD 6.7 higher (6.2 to 7.2 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 general health perceptions subscale, 0-100, changes scores, high is good outcome) at ≥3 months</b>												

1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	191	195	-	MD 3.24 higher (2.86 to 3.63 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 social functioning subscale, 0-100, changes scores, high is good outcome) at ≥3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	191	195	-	MD 7.04 higher (6.43 to 7.65 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 mental health subscale, 0-100, changes scores, high is good outcome) at ≥3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	191	195	-	MD 7.91 higher (7.41 to 8.41 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 emotional role limitations subscale, 0-100, changes scores, high is good outcome) at ≥3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	191	195	-	MD 9.13 higher (8.46 to 9.8 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (EQ-5D, low is poor outcome) change scores at &gt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	376	144	-	MD 0.03 higher (0.04 lower to 0.1 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, low is poor outcome) change scores at &gt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	232	115	-	MD 8.42 lower (12.08 to 4.76 lower)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Physical function (FIQ PF subscale, high is poor outcome, 0-10) change scores at &gt;3 months</b>												

3	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	725	506	-	SMD 0.02 lower (0.14 lower to 0.1 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress (Beck depression inventory, Hamilton rating scale for depression, high is poor outcome) change scores at &gt;3 months</b>												
5	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	868	863	-	SMD 2.02 lower (3.62 to 0.42 lower)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Discontinuation due to adverse events at &gt;3 months</b>												
8	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	229/1414 (16.2%)	93/1033 (9%)	RR 1.71 (1.35 to 2.09)	60 more per 1000 (from 42 more to 92 more)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Sleep (Jenkins composite score, MOS-Sleep Index I, BPI interference score sleep, change scores, high is poor outcome) at &gt;3 months</b>												
2	randomised trials	very serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	421	313	-	SMD 0.53 lower (0.68 to 0.38 lower)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW	IMPORTANT

1 Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.  
 2 Downgraded by heterogeneity, unexplained by subgroup analysis  
 3 Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias

4

5 **Table 24: Clinical evidence profile: Tricyclics versus placebo**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Tricyclics versus placebo	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		

Pain reduction (VAS and McGill pain questionnaire, final values, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months												
3	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	Serious <sup>3</sup>	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	210	167	-	SMD 1.25 lower (2.73 lower to 0.24 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Pain reduction (VAS 0-10, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	111	119	-	MD 0.3 lower (-0.93 to 0.33 lower)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Pain reduction change scores (VAS 0-100, high is poor outcome) at >3 months												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	24	24	-	MD 23.8 lower (35.82 to 11.78 lower)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
Pain final values (McGill pain questionnaire, 0-78, high is poor outcome) at >3 months												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	78	36	-	MD 2.1 lower (7.68 lower to 3.48 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Number of responders (Scale of global improvement, great or moderate improvement) at ≤3 months												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	-	-	RR 1.56 (0.99 to 2.48)	220 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 583 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Quality of life final values (FIQ, 0-100, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	73	33	-	MD 7.37 lower (10.68 to 4.06 lower)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL

<b>Physical functioning (NPDI, % improvement) at &lt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	104	108	-	MD 28.53 higher (25.05 to 32.01 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	CRITICAL
<b>Physical function final values (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	82	40	-	MD 0.17 lower (0.37 lower to 0.03 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Physical function (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome, final values) at &gt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	78	36	-	MD 0.17 lower (0.4 lower to 0.06 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress (HAD-D, % improvement) at &lt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	104	108	-	MD 5.32 higher (1.77 to 8.87 higher)	⊕⊕○○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress final values (Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale [AIMS] depression component, 0-10, final values, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	82	40	-	MD 0.12 lower (0.82 lower to 0.58 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress final values (Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale [AIMS] depression component, 0-10, final values, high is poor outcome) at &gt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	78	36	-	MD 0.16 lower (0.89 lower to 0.57 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL

Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (due to drowsiness, palpitations, insomnia, panic attack)												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	8/166 (4.8%)	0/166 (0%)	OR 7.72 (1.9 to 31.31)	50 more per 1000 (from 10 more to 80 more) <sup>3</sup>	⊕⊕⊕O MODERATE	CRITICAL
Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≥3 months (reasons not specified, no serious adverse events reported)												
2	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	8/159 (5%)	2.8%	RR 2.68 (0.72 to 9.93)	47 more per 1000 (from 8 fewer to 250 more)	⊕⊕OO LOW	CRITICAL
Sleep disturbance (Bispectral index scale, % improvement) at ≤3 months												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	104	108	-	MD 28.87 higher (23.87 to 33.87 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	IMPORTANT

1 Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias

2 Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

3 Downgraded by 1 increment for heterogeneity, unexplained by subgroup analysis

6 **Table 25: Clinical evidence profile: Tetracyclic antidepressants versus placebo**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Tetracyclic antidepressant versus placebo	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		

Number of responders (VAS total score, VAS 24h morning recall, 30% improvement) at >3 months												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	16/27 (59.3%)	38.5%	RR 1.54 (0.72 to 3.28)	208 more per 1000 (from 108 fewer to 878 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Quality of life (SF-36 physical functioning subscale, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome) at >3 months												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	22	10	-	MD 20.35 higher (2.09 to 38.61 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Quality of life (SF-36 physical role limitations subscale, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome) at >3 months												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	22	10	-	MD 7 higher (114.81 lower to 128.81 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
Quality of life (SF-36 bodily pain subscale, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome) at >3 months												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	22	10	-	MD 8.5 higher (41.58 lower to 58.58 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
Quality of life (SF-36 general health perceptions subscale, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome) at >3 months												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	22	10	-	MD 9 higher (41.23 lower to 59.23 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
Quality of life (SF-36 vitality subscale, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome) at >3 months												



1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	22	10	-	MD 6 higher (30.8 lower to 42.8 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 social functioning subscale, final values, 0-100, high is good outcome) at &gt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	22	10	-	MD 3 lower (27.51 lower to 21.51 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 mental health subscale, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome) at &gt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	22	10	-	MD 9 higher (23.77 lower to 41.77 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life (SF-36 emotional role limitations subscale, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome) at &gt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	22	10	-	MD 17.95 higher (83.79 lower to 119.69 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Discontinuation due to adverse events at &gt;3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	3/26	2/14	RR 0.81 (0.15 to 4.28)	28 fewer per 1000 (from 116 fewer to 485 more)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL

1 <sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias

2 <sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

3

4

**1 Table 26: Clinical evidence profile: Benzodiazepines versus placebo**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Benzodiazepines versus placebo	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
<b>Pain reduction final values and change scores (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months</b>												
3	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	38	36	-	MD 0.38 lower (0.82 lower to 0.06 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
<b>Physical function (HAQ disability index, 0-3 high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	17	14	-	MD 0.1 higher (0.03 to 0.17 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	17	14	-	MD 0.2 higher (0.01 lower to 0.41 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress (BDI, depression adjective checklist, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months</b>												
2	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	21	22	-	MD 0.51 lower (1.12 lower to 0.11 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL

**2** <sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias  
**3** <sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

1 **Table 27: Clinical evidence profile: NSAIDs versus placebo**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	NSAIDs versus placebo	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
<b>Pain reduction at ≤3 months (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome, change scores and final values)</b>												
2	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	29	26	-	MD 0.28 lower (0.66 lower to 0.1 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
<b>Number of responders (Brief pain inventory, decrease of &gt;30%) at ≤3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	9/32 (28.1%)	9/32 (28.1%)	RR 1 (0.46 to 2.19)	0 fewer per 1000 (from 220 fewer to 220 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life at ≤3 months (SF-36 mental component, 0-100, high is good outcome, final values)</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	32	32	-	MD 1.9 lower (11.71 lower to 7.91 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life at ≤3 months (SF-36 physical component, 0-100, high is good outcome, final values)</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	32	32	-	MD 0.4 lower (9.19 lower to 8.39 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Physical function at ≤3 months (HAQ disability index, 0-3 high is poor outcome, change scores)</b>												

1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	17	14	-	MD 0.1 higher (0.03 to 0.17 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome, change scores)</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	17	14	-	MD 0.6 lower (0.81 to 0.39 lower)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress at ≤3 months (HAM-D, depression adjective checklist, high is poor outcome, final values)</b>												
2	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	44	44	-	SMD 0.09 lower (0.51 lower to 0.33 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Discontinuation due to adverse events (reasons not specified, no serious adverse events)</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	2/32 (6.3%)	0/32 (0%)	OR 7.63 (0.47 to 124.75)	6 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 16 more) <sup>3</sup>	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL

1 <sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias  
 2 <sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

**3 Table 28: Clinical evidence profile: Cannabinoids versus placebo**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Cannabinoids versus placebo	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
<b>Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (dizziness, disorientation, nausea, poor coordination, headache, drowsiness and fatigue)</b>												

1 <sup>3</sup>	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	20	20	RR 3 (0.34 to 26.45)	100 more per 1000 (from 33 fewer to 1000 more)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
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1 <sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias

2 <sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

3 <sup>3</sup> Study also reported quality of life and pain reduction outcomes but these were reported in insufficient detail for quality assessment or inclusion in the analysis. See clinical evidence tables for further details.

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6 **Table 29: Clinical evidence profile: Local anaesthetics versus placebo**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Local anaesthetics versus placebo	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
<b>Pain reduction change scores (VAS score 0-10, high is poor outcomes) at ≤3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	27	31	-	MD 1.47 higher (1.81 lower to 4.74 higher)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Number of responders (100mm VAS score, 30% reduction) at ≤3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	10/31 (32.3%)	11/30 (36.7%)	RR 0.88 (0.44 to 1.76)	44 fewer per 1000 (from 205 fewer to 279 more)	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress (Beck depression inventory 0-63, change score; high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months</b>												

1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	28	31	-	MD 1.06 higher (1.85 lower to 3.97 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Discontinuation due to adverse events at ≤3 months (reasons not stated)</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	33	33	RR 1 (0.07 to 15.33)	0 more per 1000 (from 8 fewer to 8 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL

1 <sup>1</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias

2 <sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

3 **Table 30: Clinical evidence profile: NSAIDs versus benzodiazepines**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	NSAIDs versus benzodiazepines	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
<b>Pain reduction (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome, change scores and final values) at ≤3 months</b>												
2	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	29	28	-	MD 0.13 higher (0.33 lower to 0.6 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Physical function changes scores (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	17	17	-	MD 0 higher (0.0.7 to 0.07 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress change scores (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months</b>												

1	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	17	17	-	MD 0.8 lower (1 to 0.6 lower)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Psychological distress final values (HAM-D, 0-21, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious <sup>2</sup>	none	12	11	-	MD 1 higher (2.26 lower to 4.26 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW	CRITICAL

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<sup>0</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias  
<sup>2</sup> Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.

**Table 31: Clinical evidence profile: SNRIs versus anti-epileptics**

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	SNRIs versus anti-epileptics	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
<b>Pain reduction at &lt;3 months (Widespread Pain Index, 0-19, final values, high is poor outcome)</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	35	31	-	MD 2.63 lower (4.60 to 0.66 lower)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life at &lt;3 months (SF-12 Physical component, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome)</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	35	31	-	MD 6.98 higher (3.15 lower to 17.11 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Quality of life at &lt;3 months (SF-12 Mental component, 0-100, final values, high is good outcome)</b>												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	34	31	-	MD 7.44 higher (3.36 lower to 18.24 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ VERY LOW	CRITICAL

Psychological distress at <3 months (Beck Depression Inventory-II, 0-63, final values, high is poor outcome)												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>2</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	35	31	-	MD 1.83 lower (6.38 lower to 2.72 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Discontinuation due to adverse events at <3 months												
1	randomised trials	very serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	serious <sup>3</sup>	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	25/60 (41.7%)	8/39 (20.5%)	RR 2.03 (1.02 to 4.04)	212 more per 1000 (from 14 more to 440 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL

1 Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of evidence was at high risk of bias and 2 increments if the majority of evidence was at very high risk of bias  
 2 Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed 1 MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.  
 3 Downgraded for outcome indirectness

## F.2 Opioid safety

8 None  
9

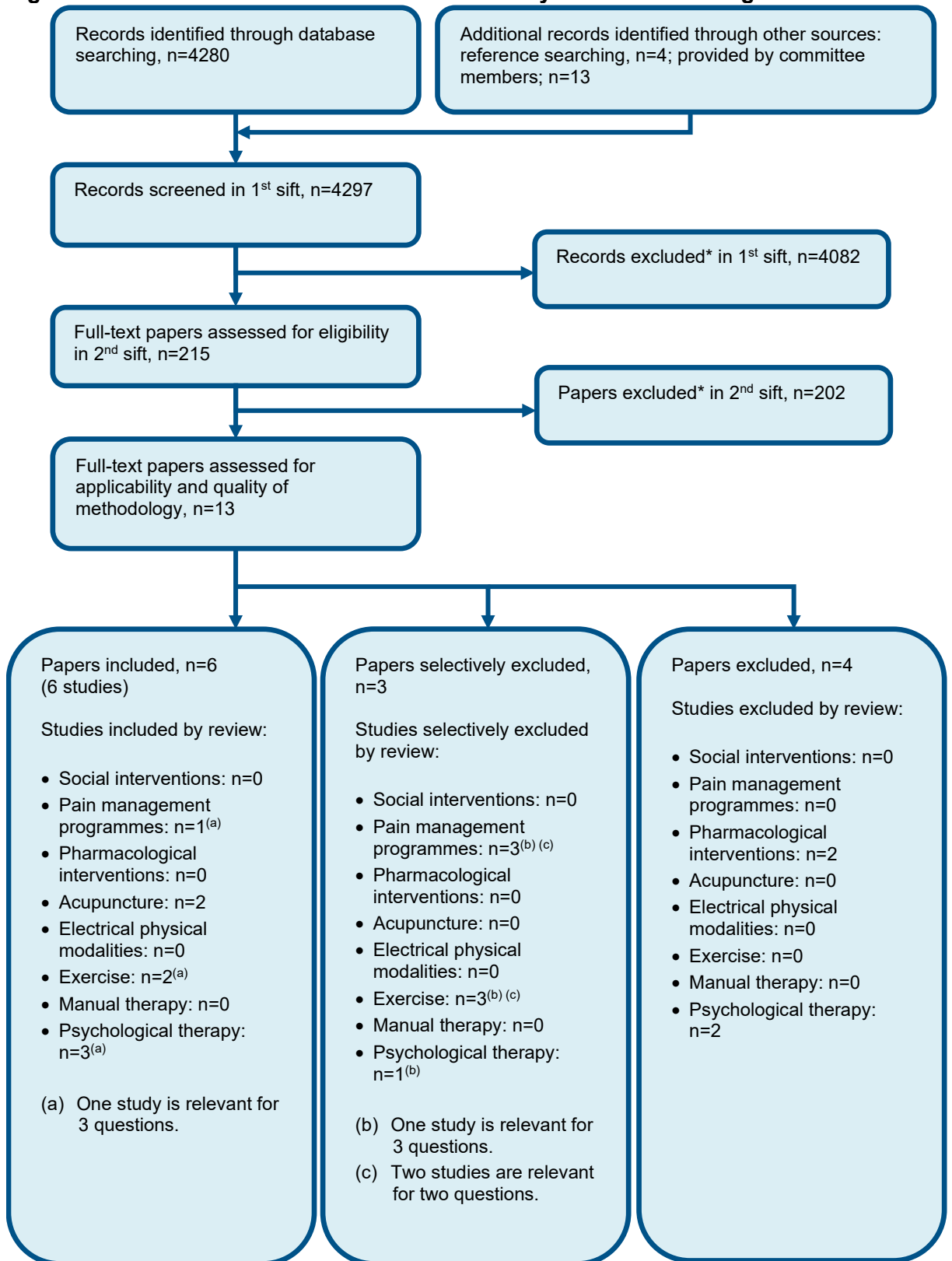
## F.3 Gabapentinoid safety

11 None  
12  
13



1 **Appendix G: Health economic evidence**  
2 **selection**  
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**Figure 102: Flow chart of health economic study selection for the guideline**



\* Non-relevant population, intervention, comparison, design or setting; non-English language

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- 1 **Appendix H: Health economic evidence tables**
- 2 None

# 1 Appendix I: Excluded studies

## I.1 Excluded clinical studies

### I.1.3 Pharmacological management

#### 4 Table 32: Studies excluded from the clinical review

Study	Exclusion reason
Aboumarzouk 2012 <sup>3</sup>	Cochrane review with different outcomes
Achariyapota 2008 <sup>4</sup>	No useable outcomes
Acuna 2008 <sup>5</sup>	Literature review
Ahmed 2016 <sup>9</sup>	Systematic review: study designs inappropriate. Crossover study
Aiyer 2018 <sup>11</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Albazaz 2008 <sup>12</sup>	Literature review
Albertoni giraldes 2016 <sup>13</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Allan 2001 <sup>15</sup>	Systematic review: study designs inappropriate. Crossover study. Not review population
Anderberg 2000 <sup>18</sup>	No useable outcomes
Andreae 2012 <sup>19</sup>	Not review population
Andrews 2011 <sup>20</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Anon 2015 <sup>599</sup>	Protocol
Anonymous 2006 <sup>24</sup>	Retrospective study
Anonymous 2006 <sup>23</sup>	Abstract
Anonymous 2009 <sup>25</sup>	Incorrect study design
Anothaisintawee 2011 <sup>27</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Arai 2015 <sup>29</sup>	Pre-randomisation crossover for half the patients, but not for the other half, due to run-up period of fentanyl treatment of all patients. The washout period was unreported. Not review population
Argoff 2015 <sup>30</sup>	Wrong study design
Arnold 2004 <sup>42</sup>	Not review population. Incorrect study design (placebo run in)
Arnold 2007 <sup>33</sup>	Both studies already on database. Incorrect design
Arnold 2007 <sup>44</sup>	Systematic review is not relevant to review question or unclear PICO. This is a pooled report of two studies that have already been included for extraction.
Arnold 2008 <sup>46</sup>	Placebo run-in phase
Arnold 2009 <sup>38</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Arnold 2009 <sup>41</sup>	Wrong study design
Arnold 2010 <sup>32</sup>	Both studies on database. Incorrect design
Arnold 2010 <sup>43</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Arnold 2014 <sup>35</sup>	Responders only. Not guideline condition
Arnold 2015 <sup>47</sup>	Crossover study
Arnold 2016 <sup>48</sup>	Not review population
Arnold 2017 <sup>34</sup>	Crossover study
Arnold 2018 <sup>36</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Ataoglu 1997 <sup>51</sup>	Not review population
Aviram 2017 <sup>53</sup>	Wrong population

Study	Exclusion reason
Azari 2012 <sup>54</sup>	Inappropriate comparison. Pooled analysis. References checked
Bateman 2013 <sup>60</sup>	Wrong population
Beaulieu 2007 <sup>61</sup>	Crossover study
Bennett 2003 <sup>63</sup>	Incorrect interventions. Drug combination
Bennett 2005 <sup>64</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Benyamin 2009 <sup>65</sup>	Not review population
Berger 2011 <sup>68</sup>	Abstract
Berry 1982 <sup>69</sup>	Not review population
Bhadra 2010 <sup>70</sup>	No useable outcomes
Biasi 1998 <sup>72</sup>	Duration too short
Binsfeld 2010 <sup>74</sup>	Not review population
Birse 2012 <sup>77</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Bogetto 1997 <sup>79</sup>	Abstract
Bohme 2004 <sup>80</sup>	Not review population
Bradley 2010 <sup>84</sup>	No useable outcomes
Branco 2010 <sup>85</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Breuer 2014 <sup>86</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Broglio 2017 <sup>87</sup>	Incorrect study design
Brown 2008 <sup>90</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Brown 2009 <sup>91</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Brown 2017 <sup>88</sup>	Abstract
Brown 2018 <sup>89</sup>	Crossover study. Inappropriate outcomes
Brutcher 2019 <sup>94</sup>	Pain not chronic primary. Not guideline condition
Burgstaller 2014 <sup>96</sup>	Not review population
Busse 2018 <sup>98</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Buynak 2015 <sup>99</sup>	Not review population
Campbell 2001 <sup>103</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Campbell 2017 <sup>107</sup>	Not review population
Cantini 1995 <sup>109</sup>	Not in English
Capaci 2002 <sup>110</sup>	No SD reported for outcomes. Not guideline condition
Cappelleri 2009 <sup>111</sup>	Post hoc analysis
Caruso 1987 <sup>116</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Castagnera 1994 <sup>117</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Choi 2012 <sup>126</sup>	article not in English
Chou 2003 <sup>129</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Chou 2013 <sup>127</sup>	Not review population
Choy 2011 <sup>132</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Chu 2018 <sup>134</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Clair 2016 <sup>138</sup>	Pooled analysis, not all trials included
Clauw 2008 <sup>139</sup>	Not review population
Clauw 2013 <sup>140</sup>	Not review population. Incorrect study design (responders only)
Cohen 2012 <sup>141</sup>	Systematic review, references checked
Cooper 2017 <sup>146</sup>	Cochrane review with different PICO
Cooper 2017 <sup>145</sup>	Not review population. Cochrane review
Cording 2015 <sup>148</sup>	Cochrane review, drug not available in the UK

Study	Exclusion reason
Cossins 2013 <sup>151</sup>	Systematic review, references checked
Crofford 2005 <sup>154</sup>	Not review population. Excluded known non-responders
Crofford 2008 <sup>153</sup>	Not review population. Only responders
De Moraes 2012 <sup>158</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
De Vries 2016 <sup>160</sup>	Crossover study. Incorrect interventions
De Vries 2017 <sup>161</sup>	Not review population (secondary visceral pain). Incorrect interventions
Deer 2019 <sup>162</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Derry 2016 <sup>165</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Derry 2016 <sup>166</sup>	Cochrane review with different outcomes (some overlap), minimum trial duration requirement of 8 weeks
Derry 2016 <sup>167</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (neuropathic pain)
Derry 2017 <sup>168</sup>	Cochrane review with different outcomes (some overlap)
Derry 2017 <sup>169</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Desai 2013 <sup>171</sup>	Literature review
Distler 2010 <sup>175</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Domzal 1985 <sup>176</sup>	Abstract
Doraiswamy 2006 <sup>177</sup>	Placebo run in phase
Drewes 1993 <sup>178</sup>	No useable outcomes
Driessens 1994 <sup>179</sup>	Crossover study
Duehmke 2017 <sup>182</sup>	Not review population. Cochrane review
Dwight 1998 <sup>185</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Eckmann 2011 <sup>186</sup>	Crossover study
Edelbroek 1986 <sup>187</sup>	Not review population
Els 2017 <sup>195</sup>	Cochrane review with different outcomes (some overlap)
Els 2017 <sup>193</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Engel 1998 <sup>196</sup>	Crossover study
Erhan 2000 <sup>197</sup>	Not in English
Eroglu 2013 <sup>198</sup>	Nottingham Health Profile is only scale
Esteve 2013 <sup>199</sup>	Not review population
Eyigor 2010 <sup>204</sup>	Not review population. Inappropriate comparison
Finch 2009 <sup>207</sup>	Crossover study
Fleuret 2014 <sup>209</sup>	Incorrect study design
Forsell 2004 <sup>212</sup>	Crossover study
Franco 2002 <sup>217</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Franco 2017 <sup>216</sup>	Protocol
Freyenhagen 2006 <sup>218</sup>	Not review population
Frost 1986 <sup>219</sup>	Duration too short
Furlan 2006 <sup>221</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Gaskell 2014 <sup>226</sup>	Cochrane review. Not review population
Gaskell 2016 <sup>227</sup>	Cochrane review, references checked
Geisser 2011 <sup>230</sup>	Pooled analysis

Study	Exclusion reason
Gill 2011 <sup>231</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Giordano 1999 <sup>233</sup>	No useable outcomes
Goldenberg 1986 <sup>238</sup>	No useable outcomes
Goldenberg 1996 <sup>236</sup>	Crossover study
González 2007 <sup>241</sup>	Cochrane review protocol
Gourlay 1986 <sup>243</sup>	Crossover study
Grosset 2005 <sup>248</sup>	Crossover study
Guerriero 2015 <sup>254</sup>	Not review population
Gulec 2007 <sup>255</sup>	Not in English
Haggman-henrikson 2017 <sup>257</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Hale 1999 <sup>258</sup>	Crossover study
Hale 2015 <sup>262</sup>	Incorrect study design
Hale 2016 <sup>259</sup>	Not review population
Hale 2017 <sup>261</sup>	Not review population
Haroutounian 2012 <sup>263</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Harris 2013 <sup>264</sup>	Crossover study
Hauser 2013 <sup>268</sup>	Systematic review with incorrect PICO
Häuser 2013 <sup>269</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect study design (minimum trial duration 4 weeks, including incorrect interventions)
Hauser 2015 <sup>270</sup>	Duplicate of Walitt 2016 (excluded)
Hauser 2015 <sup>265</sup>	Cochrane review with different outcomes
Hauser 2018 <sup>266</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Hearn 2012 <sup>272</sup>	Not review population
Hearn 2013 <sup>273</sup>	Protocol
Hedayati 2005 <sup>275</sup>	Not review population
Hofmann 2016 <sup>281</sup>	Not review population
Hsu 2012 <sup>283</sup>	Not review population
Imanaka 2013 <sup>287</sup>	Not review population
Jafarinia 2016 <sup>288</sup>	Not review population
Jamison 1998 <sup>290</sup>	Not review population
Johansson 1979 <sup>294</sup>	Not review population
Juel 2015 <sup>296</sup>	Not review population
Kalita 2006 <sup>298</sup>	Not review population
Kalita 2014 <sup>297</sup>	Not review population
Kang 2018 <sup>299</sup>	<3 month pain present in population
Kapil 2015 <sup>300</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Kater 1968 <sup>302</sup>	Not review population
Kiefer 2008 <sup>307</sup>	Incorrect study design
Kim 2013 <sup>308</sup>	Cross-over design.
Kim 2018 <sup>309</sup>	Incorrect population (neuropathic pain, <50% had complex regional pain syndrome)
Kisely 2016 <sup>311</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Kleinstäuber 2014 <sup>313</sup>	Not review population
Korting 1999 <sup>314</sup>	Incorrect interventions. <3 month pain present in population

Study	Exclusion reason
Kurian 2019 <sup>319</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Landau 2007 <sup>320</sup>	Not review population
Lawson 2016 <sup>326</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Le marshall 2011 <sup>327</sup>	Literature review
Learman 2005 <sup>328</sup>	Literature review
Lee 2006 <sup>329</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Lee 2012 <sup>332</sup>	Incorrect study design
Lee 2016 <sup>333</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Leo 2013 <sup>334</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Lin 2012 <sup>337</sup>	Not review population
Lipkovich 2014 <sup>339</sup>	Meta-analysis
List 2003 <sup>340</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Liu 2018 <sup>341</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Loldrup 1989 <sup>343</sup>	Not review population
Loldrup 1991 <sup>342</sup>	Cancelled, unavailable
Lopez-d'alessandro 2011 <sup>344</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Lunn 2014 <sup>345</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Lynch 2011 <sup>347</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Lynch 2015 <sup>348</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Macfarlane 2017 <sup>351</sup>	EULAR report on review of systematic reviews
Magistro 2016 <sup>352</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Maina 2002 <sup>355</sup>	Incorrect study design
Malik 2017 <sup>357</sup>	No extractable outcomes. Incorrect interventions (Dronabinol not licensed in the UK)
Manchikanti 2011 <sup>358</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Marangell 2011 <sup>360</sup>	Meta-analysis
Martin-sanchez 2009 <sup>362</sup>	Systematic review. Chronic pain mixed population
Matthey 2013 <sup>363</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Mcintyre 2013 <sup>365</sup>	Abstract
Mcintyre 2014 <sup>364</sup>	Not guideline condition. Not review population
Mcmillan 1997 <sup>366</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Mcmillan 2016 <sup>367</sup>	Cochrane review with different outcomes
Mcnaughton 2001 <sup>368</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect interventions
Mcnicol 2013 <sup>370</sup>	Cochrane review, incorrect population
Mcnicol 2017 <sup>369</sup>	Cochrane review, incorrect population
Mcquay 1992 <sup>371</sup>	Not review population
Mease 2008 <sup>376</sup>	Incorrect study design (placebo run in)
Mease 2010 <sup>372</sup>	Incorrect study design (placebo run in)
Mease 2009 <sup>373</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Mease 2010 <sup>377</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Mease 2011 <sup>378</sup>	Meta-analysis
Mease 2014 <sup>375</sup>	Meta-analysis
Mease 2014 <sup>374</sup>	Incorrect study design
Menzies 2017 <sup>381</sup>	Incorrect study design
Meske 2018 <sup>383</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO



Study	Exclusion reason
Michelet 2018 <sup>384</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Miki 2016 <sup>385</sup>	Placebo run in phase
Miller 2002 <sup>386</sup>	Narrative literature review
Minguez serra 2007 <sup>388</sup>	Literature review
Mohs 2012 <sup>389</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Moore 2005 <sup>392</sup>	Systematic review. Not review population
Moore 2009 <sup>393</sup>	Cochrane review with different outcomes
Moore 2011 <sup>394</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Moore 2014 <sup>390</sup>	Meta-analysis
Moore 2015 <sup>391</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population
Muller 2004 <sup>399</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Muller 2005 <sup>400</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Murakami 2017 <sup>401</sup>	Crossover study
Murray 2005 <sup>403</sup>	Conference abstract
Nalamachu 2011 <sup>406</sup>	Not review population
Nalamachu 2012 <sup>405</sup>	Meta-analysis. Not review population
Nasser 2014 <sup>408</sup>	Dose comparison
Natelson 2015 <sup>409</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Nct 2010 <sup>411</sup>	Citation only
Nguyen 2012 <sup>412</sup>	Systematic review
Nickel 2000 <sup>414</sup>	Narrative literature review
Nickel 2003 <sup>417</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Nickel 2008 <sup>415</sup>	Incorrect study design
Nickel 2012 <sup>416</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Niimi 2012 <sup>418</sup>	Citation only
Nishishinya 2006 <sup>420</sup>	Protocol
Nishishinya 2008 <sup>419</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Nitecka-Buchta 2019 <sup>421</sup>	Incorrect intervention. Unclear population (duration of pain not specified)
Noble 2008 <sup>423</sup>	Not review population. Systematic review
Noble 2010 <sup>422</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Nuesch 2013 <sup>426</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Nugent 2017 <sup>427</sup>	Not review population. Systematic review
O'connell 2013 <sup>428</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect interventions and different outcomes
Offiah 2013 <sup>432</sup>	Systematic review
Ohta 2012 <sup>435</sup>	Incorrect study design (placebo run in)
Ohta 2013 <sup>436</sup>	Incorrect study design
O'malley 1999 <sup>430</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
O'malley 2000 <sup>429</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Onghena 1992 <sup>437</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Ottman 2018 <sup>439</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Ozerbil 2006 <sup>440</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Padilla 2000 <sup>442</sup>	Not review population

Study	Exclusion reason
Pae 2009 <sup>444</sup>	Secondary analysis of an excluded study
Pae 2009 <sup>443</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Papadopoulou 2016 <sup>446</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Papandreou 2009 <sup>447</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Papazisis 2010 <sup>448</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Parsons 2015 <sup>450</sup>	Meta-analysis
Parsons 2016 <sup>449</sup>	Meta-analysis of excluded studies
Patkar 2005 <sup>455</sup>	Conference abstract
Patkar 2007 <sup>454</sup>	Incorrect study design (placebo run in)
Patton 2007 <sup>456</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Pauer 2011 <sup>457</sup>	Incorrect study design (placebo run in)
Pazin 2016 <sup>459</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Perez 2001 <sup>461</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Pergolizzi 2013 <sup>464</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Perrot 2014 <sup>465</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Petzke 2013 <sup>466</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Pickering 2018 <sup>467</sup>	Incorrect interventions. Milnacipran not licensed in UK
Pilowsky 1990 <sup>468</sup>	Not review population. Non-responders to all other treatments
Polackwich 2016 <sup>469</sup>	Literature review
Pontari 2009 <sup>471</sup>	Abstract
Posner 1994 <sup>473</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Potvin 2012 <sup>474</sup>	Incorrect interventions. Quetiapine as add-on treatment and no detail on other treatments being used in each group
Purcell 2004 <sup>476</sup>	Conference abstract
Quijada 1994 <sup>478</sup>	Not in English
Quijada-carrera 1996 <sup>477</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Radbruch 2003 <sup>480</sup>	Not review population
Rasmussen 1970 <sup>481</sup>	single blind design
Rauck 2013 <sup>482</sup>	Not review population
Reichenbach 2015 <sup>484</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Reinecke 2015 <sup>485</sup>	Not review population. Systematic review
Ren 2016 <sup>486</sup>	Not in English
Riediger 2017 <sup>490</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Riera 2015 <sup>491</sup>	Abstract
Rizzatti-barbosa 2003 <sup>492</sup>	No extractable outcomes
Rodriguez de rivera campillo 2010 <sup>494</sup>	Not review population
Rodriguez de rivera-campillo 2011 <sup>493</sup>	Not in English
Roldan 1990 <sup>495</sup>	Not in English
Roskell 2011 <sup>496</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Rossi 1983 <sup>497</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Roth 2012 <sup>499</sup>	Crossover study
Roth 2016 <sup>498</sup>	Crossover study
Russell 2000 <sup>505</sup>	Not review population
Russell 2009 <sup>503</sup>	Secondary analysis of an excluded study

Study	Exclusion reason
Salerno 2002 <sup>509</sup>	Not review population. Systematic review
Samborski 2004 <sup>510</sup>	Non-randomised trial
Santos 2015 <sup>511</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain), different outcomes
Santos 2018 <sup>512</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Sarzi-puttini 2008 <sup>513</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Sator-katzenschlager 2005 <sup>514</sup>	Not review population
Schaeffer 2013 <sup>516</sup>	Abstract
Schilder 2013 <sup>520</sup>	Secondary analysis
Schoevers 2016 <sup>522</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Schwartzman 2009 <sup>523</sup>	Not review population
Scrivani 1999 <sup>524</sup>	Incorrect study design
Seidel 2013 <sup>526</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Sencan 2004 <sup>527</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Senye 2012 <sup>528</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Sigtermans 2009 <sup>533</sup>	No useable outcomes
Siler 2011 <sup>534</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Silverman 2017 <sup>535</sup>	Crossover study
Smith 2011 <sup>540</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Smith 2016 <sup>541</sup>	Literature review
Smith 2019 <sup>542</sup>	Inappropriate comparison
Sorensen 1995 <sup>545</sup>	Crossover study
Sorge 2004 <sup>546</sup>	Not review population
Spaeth 2006 <sup>547</sup>	Summary and comment
Spoelstra 2013 <sup>549</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Stannard 2016 <sup>551</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Staud 2014 <sup>553</sup>	No extractable outcomes
Staud 2015 <sup>552</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Sternbach 1977 <sup>554</sup>	Incorrect study design
Stockings 2018 <sup>555</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Straube 2010 <sup>557</sup>	Meta-analysis of excluded studies
Straube 2011 <sup>558</sup>	Meta-analysis of excluded studies
Strauss 2015 <sup>559</sup>	Crossover study
Sultan 2008 <sup>561</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Ta 2004 <sup>563</sup>	Not review population
Tammiala-salonen 1999 <sup>565</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Tanum 1994 <sup>567</sup>	Abstract
Taskaynatan 2004 <sup>568</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Theoharides 2008 <sup>572</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Todorov 2005 <sup>574</sup>	Not review population. Inappropriate comparison
Trugman 2014 <sup>575</sup>	Incorrect study design (placebo run in)
Tsang 2016 <sup>576</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Tschopp 1996 <sup>577</sup>	No useable outcomes
Turkington 2002 <sup>578</sup>	No useable outcomes

Study	Exclusion reason
Tyrer 1996 <sup>582</sup>	Conference abstract
Tzellos 2010 <sup>584</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Uceyler 2008 <sup>585</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Üçeyler 2017 <sup>586</sup>	Withdrawn systematic review
Usha 1995 <sup>587</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Vaisman 1996 <sup>588</sup>	Not in English
Van de Donk 2019 <sup>589</sup>	Crossover study. Incorrect interventions
Van de vusse 2004 <sup>590</sup>	Crossover study
Van houdenhove 1992 <sup>591</sup>	Crossover study. Incorrect interventions
Vanderweide 2015 <sup>593</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Varia 2000 <sup>594</sup>	Incorrect study design (placebo run in)
Venâncio rde 2008 <sup>597</sup>	Not review population
Vitton 2004 <sup>600</sup>	Incorrect interventions
Walitt 2015 <sup>607</sup>	Cochrane review that included crossover studies, minimum trial duration of 4 weeks, different outcomes
Walitt 2016 <sup>605</sup>	Cochrane review that included crossover studies, minimum trial duration of 4 weeks, different outcomes
Walitt 2016 <sup>606</sup>	Cochrane review that included crossover studies, minimum trial duration of 4 weeks, different outcomes
Wallace 2000 <sup>608</sup>	Incorrect study design. No relevant outcomes
Wang 2003 <sup>612</sup>	Not in English
Wang 2011 <sup>610</sup>	Meta-analysis
Wang 2012 <sup>611</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Wang 2017 <sup>609</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Ware 2010 <sup>613</sup>	Crossover study
Wen 2013 <sup>619</sup>	Not review population
Wertli 2014 <sup>621</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Wieckiewicz 2015 <sup>622</sup>	Literature review
Wiffen 2005 <sup>623</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2011 <sup>628</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2013 <sup>626</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Wiffen 2013 <sup>624</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2013 <sup>625</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2014 <sup>627</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wiffen 2016 <sup>630</sup>	Cochrane review with incorrect population (includes pain other than chronic primary pain)
Wu 2008 <sup>636</sup>	Not in English
Xu 2006 <sup>637</sup>	Not in English
Xu 2016 <sup>638</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Yang 2014 <sup>639</sup>	Secondary analysis. No relevant outcomes
Yunus 1989 <sup>644</sup>	No useable outcomes
Zakrzewska 2003 <sup>645</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO

Study	Exclusion reason
Zakrzewska 2005 <sup>646</sup>	Cochrane review with different outcomes and incorrect interventions
Zhao 2009 <sup>649</sup>	Placebo run in phase
Zhao 2018 <sup>647</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Ziegler 2010 <sup>650</sup>	No useable outcomes
Zitman 1990 <sup>651</sup>	Unclear population
Zoppi 1990 <sup>652</sup>	Conference abstract

## I.1.2 Opioid safety

2

### 3 Table 33: Studies excluded from the clinical review

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Abdel Shaheed 2016 <sup>1</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Adams 2006 <sup>6</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Afilalo 2013 <sup>7</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Ahmedani 2014 <sup>10</sup>	No relevant outcomes (poisoning/overdose per whole population)
Aiyer 2018 <sup>11</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention for >6 months
Alford 2013 <sup>14</sup>	Incorrect study design (review article)
Allegri 2019 <sup>16</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Altman 2010 <sup>17</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Annemans 2011 <sup>21</sup>	Incorrect study design (narrative review)
Anonymous 1996 <sup>22</sup>	Incorrect study design (summary article)
Anonymous 2017 <sup>26</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Apolone 2009 <sup>28</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Arner 1988 <sup>31</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Atli 2010 <sup>52</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Baillargeon 2019 <sup>55</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (at least 90 days over 12 months)
Baldini 2012 <sup>56</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Banta-Green 2010 <sup>57</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Bartoli 2015 <sup>58</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Barutell 2008 <sup>59</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months; no relevant outcomes
Bialas 2020 <sup>71</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Birke 2018 <sup>75</sup>	Incorrect study design (cross-sectional)
Birke 2019 <sup>76</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (former use within previous 2 years)
Birthi 2015 <sup>78</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Bohnert 2011 <sup>82</sup>	Incorrect study design; no relevant outcomes
Bohnert 2016 <sup>81</sup>	Incorrect study design; no relevant outcomes
Boland 2014 <sup>83</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Brown 1996 <sup>92</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Bruera 2003 <sup>93</sup>	Citation
Burgess 2001 <sup>95</sup>	Incorrect study design (review article)

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Buynak 2009 <sup>100</sup>	Abstract only
Buynak 2009 <sup>101</sup>	Abstract only
Buynak 2015 <sup>99</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Campbell 2015 <sup>105</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Campbell 2015 <sup>106</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Campbell 2016 <sup>104</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Campbell 2017 <sup>102</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Candiotti 2010 <sup>108</sup>	Incorrect study design (narrative review)
Carman 2011 <sup>113</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (participants whose dispensing reached 180 days of cumulative exposure over 3 years were eligible for inclusion; dosage within the preceding 90 days was considered in the analysis)
Carmona-Bayonas 2017 <sup>114</sup>	Incorrect study design (narrative review)
Carson 2011 <sup>115</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Chamberlin 2007 <sup>119</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Chan 2011 <sup>120</sup>	Incorrect study design (narrative review)
Chaparro 2013 <sup>121</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Chen 2015 <sup>123</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Chenaf 2016 <sup>124</sup>	No relevant outcomes (shopping behaviour)
Chenaf 2016 <sup>125</sup>	No relevant outcomes (shopping behaviour)
Chou 2009 <sup>128</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Chou 2014 <sup>131</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Chou 2015 <sup>130</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Chung 2019 <sup>135</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Cichowski 2018 <sup>136</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Citron 1998 <sup>137</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention and intervention received for <6 months
Collett 2001 <sup>142</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Colson 2011 <sup>143</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Coluzzi 2018 <sup>144</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Cooper 2017 <sup>146</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Coplan 2017 <sup>147</sup>	Duration of intervention not reported
Corli 2014 <sup>149</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Coutinho 2018 <sup>152</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Currow 2015 <sup>155</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Da 2014 <sup>156</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Dauri 2014 <sup>157</sup>	Incorrect intervention (opioid combined with pregabalin); no relevant outcomes (side effects e.g. Nausea, constipation)
Degenhardt 2015 <sup>163</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Degenhardt 2015 <sup>164</sup>	No relevant outcomes (cannabis use)
Derry 2016 <sup>167</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Dersh 2008 <sup>170</sup>	Incorrect population (opioid use not an inclusion criteria); incorrect comparison (opioid dependents vs. Non opioid dependents)
Desai 2019 <sup>172</sup>	No relevant outcomes
De Vries 2019 <sup>159</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Deyo 2013 <sup>173</sup>	Incorrect population (back pain at any visit; mix of acute, subacute and chronic and unclear how many were chronic)
Diasso 2020 <sup>174</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Dublin 2015 <sup>180</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Dublin 2019 <sup>181</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (at least 70 out of 90 days); unclear population (does not specify chronic pain)
Duehmke 2017 <sup>182</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Dunn 2010 <sup>183</sup>	No relevant outcomes (overdose)
Dupoiron 2017 <sup>184</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Edlund 2007 <sup>190</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention; intervention received for <6 months
Ekholm 2014 <sup>191</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention for >6 months
Elrashidi 2018 <sup>192</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Els 2017 <sup>193</sup>	Overview of Cochrane reviews with different PICO
Els 2017 <sup>195</sup>	Overview of Cochrane reviews with different PICO
Els 2017 <sup>194</sup>	Overview of Cochrane reviews with different PICO
Etropolski 2009 <sup>201</sup>	Conference abstract
Etropolski 2009 <sup>202</sup>	Abstract only
Etropolski 2009 <sup>203</sup>	Abstract only
Etropolski 2014 <sup>200</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention for >6 months; no relevant outcomes
Feingold 2018 <sup>205</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Felden 2011 <sup>206</sup>	Incorrect interventions (ordered in error)
Foley 2003 <sup>210</sup>	Editorial
Fonda 2020 <sup>211</sup>	No relevant outcomes; unclear duration of intervention (≥1 refill within 3 months of opioid prescription)
Furlan 2014 <sup>220</sup>	Review protocol
Gabrielle Page 2016 <sup>222</sup>	Incorrect population (opioid use not an inclusion criterion); no relevant outcomes (opioid abuse risk)
Gallagher 2009 <sup>223</sup>	Incorrect comparison (opioid vs. Opioid); no relevant outcomes (constipation, nausea, dizziness)
Garg 2017 <sup>224</sup>	Incorrect comparison (opioid dosage); no relevant outcomes (opioid overdose death)
Gaskell 2014 <sup>226</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Gatti 2011 <sup>228</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Gehling 2011 <sup>229</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Gisev 2019 <sup>234</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Goesling 2015 <sup>235</sup>	Duration of intervention not reported
Goldenberg 2016 <sup>237</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Gomes 2011 <sup>240</sup>	Incorrect study design (case control where cases were opioid related deaths and controls were opioid users without opioid related deaths)



Reference	Reason for exclusion
Gomes 2011 <sup>239</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Gordon 2006 <sup>242</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
GrAD'Â-nenthal 2010 <sup>249</sup>	Citation
Graham 2008 <sup>244</sup>	Unclear population and duration of intervention; no relevant outcomes (rate of opioid related deaths per whole population)
Green 2011 <sup>245</sup>	Incorrect population (people being assessed for substance abuse treatment)
Griessinger 2005 <sup>246</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Grond 1999 <sup>247</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Guay 2007 <sup>250</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Guay 2009 <sup>251</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Guay 2010 <sup>252</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Gudin 2019 <sup>253</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Hadley 2013 <sup>256</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Hale 1997 <sup>260</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention and duration <6 months
Haroutounian 2012 <sup>263</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Hauser 2017 <sup>266</sup>	No relevant outcomes (mental and/or behavioural disorders/intoxication admissions, prescriptions for antidepressants/antipsychotics, opioid prescriptions by >3 physicians)
Hauser 2018 <sup>267</sup>	Incorrect study design (cross-sectional)
Hayes 2020 <sup>271</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (≥90 days within 2 180 day periods)
Higgins 2018 <sup>277</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Higgins 2019 <sup>278</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Hitzeman 2010 <sup>279</sup>	Incorrect study design (interpretation of a Cochrane review)
Hoffman 2017 <sup>280</sup>	Incorrect comparison (<90 days vs. >90 days); <1000 people received the intervention for >6 months
Howe 2012 <sup>282</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Huang 2017 <sup>284</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Ilgen 2016 <sup>285</sup>	Incorrect study design (case-cohort); unclear duration of intervention
Im 2015 <sup>286</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
James 2019 <sup>289</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (chronic defined as ≥3 months)
Janssen Pharmaceutical 2009 <sup>291</sup>	Citation
Jassal 2019 <sup>292</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Jayawardhana 2019 <sup>293</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (included any duration)
Kaplovitch 2015 <sup>301</sup>	No relevant outcomes (opioid related death)
Katz 2009 <sup>303</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Kay 2019 <sup>304</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention at least 90 days per year, not necessarily consecutive)
Khodneva 2016 <sup>305</sup>	Duration of intervention not reported
Khodneva 2019 <sup>306</sup>	Duration of intervention not reported
Kissin 2013 <sup>312</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Krebs 2011 <sup>315</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention



Reference	Reason for exclusion
Krebs 2020 <sup>316</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Kuo 2019 <sup>317</sup>	Unclear intervention (unclear if opioids were prescribed for chronic pain)
Kuperwasser 2009 <sup>318</sup>	Abstract only
Landsman-Blumberg 2017 <sup>322</sup>	Incorrect comparison (types of opioid); no relevant outcomes (health care utilisation)
Landsman-Blumberg 2017 <sup>321</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Lange 2015 <sup>323</sup>	No relevant outcomes (potential opioid misuse)
Lange 2018 <sup>324</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Lanier 2019 <sup>325</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Lee 2016 <sup>330</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months; no relevant outcomes
Li 2013 <sup>336</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Lintzeris 2016 <sup>338</sup>	No relevant outcomes (sleep)
MacFarlane 2020 <sup>350</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention ('regular use' not defined)
Mailis-Gagnon 2012 <sup>354</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Makris 2015 <sup>356</sup>	Duration of intervention not reported
Manchikanti 2011 <sup>359</sup>	Incorrect study design (narrative review)
Marschall 2016 <sup>361</sup>	No relevant outcomes (mental and/or behavioural disorders/intoxication admissions, prescriptions for antidepressants/antipsychotics, opioid prescriptions by >3 physicians)
McNicol 2013 <sup>370</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
McNicol 2017 <sup>369</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Mejjad 2011 <sup>379</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months; no relevant outcomes
Meng 2017 <sup>380</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Merchant 2013 <sup>382</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Miller 2015 <sup>387</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention; no relevant outcomes (unintentional overdose)
Morgan 2019 <sup>395</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Mosher 2014 <sup>396</sup>	Incorrect population (hospitalised people); no relevant outcomes (in-hospital and 30-day mortality)
Moulin 2010 <sup>397</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention and intervention received for <6 months
Mubashir 2020 <sup>398</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Mystakidou 2004 <sup>404</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Nalamachu 2012 <sup>405</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Narayana 2015 <sup>407</sup>	Incorrect comparison (breakthrough pain vs. No breakthrough pain vs. No pain)
Nicholson 2007 <sup>413</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Niimi 2012 <sup>418</sup>	Citation
Noble 2010 <sup>422</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Novick 2019 <sup>425</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (first opioid prescription)
Oh 2019 <sup>433</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (chronic defined as at least 90 days)
O'Neil 2012 <sup>431</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Ortman 2020 <sup>438</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Pace 2007 <sup>441</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention and intervention received for <6 months
Pampati 2016 <sup>445</sup>	Duration of intervention not reported
Pascual 2007 <sup>451</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Pask 2020 <sup>452</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Passik 2011 <sup>453</sup>	No relevant outcomes (aberrant behaviour)
Paulus 2019 <sup>458</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Peacock 2016 <sup>460</sup>	No relevant outcomes (non-adherence)
Pergolizzi 2017 <sup>463</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Pergolizzi 2019 <sup>462</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Porucznik 2011 <sup>472</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Przeklasa-Muszynska 2011 <sup>475</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Radbruch 2001 <sup>479</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Rentsch 2019 <sup>487</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (new users with $\geq 7$ consecutive days)
Reps 2020 <sup>488</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (new users)
Richardson 2018 <sup>489</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Roxburgh 2011 <sup>500</sup>	Unclear population and duration of intervention
Ruan 2007 <sup>501</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Rubinstein 2017 <sup>502</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Salas 2017 <sup>508</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Salas 2018 <sup>507</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Santos 2015 <sup>511</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Saunders 2010 <sup>515</sup>	Incorrect comparison (opioids vs. Previous opioid use)
Scherrer 2014 <sup>519</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Scherrer 2016 <sup>518</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention for >6 months
Scherrer 2016 <sup>517</sup>	Unclear population and duration of intervention
Schmidt-Hansen 2017 <sup>521</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Setnik 2016 <sup>529</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention for >6 months; no relevant outcomes
Setnik 2017 <sup>530</sup>	No relevant outcomes (opioid misuse)
Shen 2018 <sup>531</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Shipton 2017 <sup>532</sup>	Duration of intervention not reported
Sjogren 2010 <sup>537</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention and unclear how many people received the intervention
Skurtveit 2011 <sup>539</sup>	Unclear whether >1000 received the intervention for >6 months
Solomon 2010 <sup>543</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (outcomes are reported 180 days after the start of opioid exposure, but inclusion criterion was at least 1 opioid prescription and median supply of opioids was for between 2 and 6 weeks)
Solomon 2010 <sup>544</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention
Stannard 2016 <sup>551</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Stollenwerk 2018 <sup>556</sup>	Incorrect study design (integrated descriptive analysis of post-marketing safety data); unclear duration of intervention

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Sullivan 2018 <sup>560</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Tagarro 2005 <sup>564</sup>	Intervention received for <6 months
Tang 2019 <sup>566</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Taylor 2013 <sup>569</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Thakral 2018 <sup>570</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (at least 70 day supply in 90 days)
Thakur 2015 <sup>571</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Tkacz 2013 <sup>573</sup>	No relevant outcomes (problematic opioid use)
Turner 2015 <sup>579</sup>	No relevant outcomes (overdose)
Turner 2016 <sup>580</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention in those with reported outcomes
Turner 2016 <sup>581</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention in those with reported outcomes
Varma 2018 <sup>595</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Veiga 2018 <sup>596</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Ventafridda 1986 <sup>598</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention and intervention received for <6 months
Von Korff 2017 <sup>601</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Voon 2017 <sup>602</sup>	Review of systematic reviews with different PICO
Vosburg 2018 <sup>603</sup>	Duration of intervention not reported
Vowles 2015 <sup>604</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Wang 2017 <sup>609</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Warfield 1998 <sup>614</sup>	Incorrect study design (narrative review)
Weber 2009 <sup>615</sup>	Conference abstract
Weber 2010 <sup>616</sup>	Conference abstract
Wei 2020 <sup>617</sup>	Unclear duration of intervention (new users)
Welsch 2020 <sup>618</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Wen 2013 <sup>619</sup>	No relevant outcomes (application site adverse events e.g. Skin irritation)
Wersocki 2017 <sup>620</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Wiffen 2015 <sup>629</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Wiffen 2016 <sup>630</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Wild 2010 <sup>631</sup>	<5000 people received the intervention and non-comparative data only
Wolff 2012 <sup>633</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Won 2006 <sup>634</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Worley 2017 <sup>635</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Yarborough 2019 <sup>640</sup>	<1000 people received the intervention
Yee 1992 <sup>641</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)
Yue 2020 <sup>643</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Zhao 2017 <sup>648</sup>	Systematic review with different PICO
Zorba Paster 2010 <sup>653</sup>	Incorrect study design (literature review)

### I.1.3 Gabapentinoid safety

#### 2 Table 34: Studies excluded from the clinical review

Study	Exclusion reason
Aboumarzouk 2012 <sup>3</sup>	No relevant outcomes, less than minimum sample size
Bell 2009 <sup>62</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Agarwal 2017 <sup>8</sup>	No relevant outcomes
Berger 2003 <sup>66</sup>	Incorrect population (postherpetic neuralgia), less than minimum sample size
Berger 2009 <sup>67</sup>	Less than minimum sample size, no relevant outcomes
Burkill 2017 <sup>97</sup>	Abstract
Fleet 2018 <sup>208</sup>	Incorrect population (multiple morbidities including cardiovascular disease)
Fragoso 2000 <sup>215</sup>	Less than minimum sample size
Gatti 2011 <sup>228</sup>	Incorrect interventions (combination of drugs, different classes)
Moore 2009 <sup>393</sup>	Less than minimum sample size, no relevant outcomes
Moore 2011 <sup>394</sup>	Less than minimum sample size, no relevant outcomes
Ohta 2012 <sup>434</sup>	Abstract
Ray 2016 <sup>483</sup>	Incorrect interventions (combination of drugs, different classes)
Stacey 2008 <sup>550</sup>	Less than minimum sample size
Tzellos 2009 <sup>583</sup>	Abstract

3

## I.2 Excluded health economic studies

### I.2.1 Pharmacological management

#### 6 Table 35: Studies excluded from the health economic review

Reference	Reason for exclusion
Lewis et al 2016 <sup>335</sup>	This study was assessed as directly applicable with very serious limitations. It was considered to have methodological flaws such as: it was a within trial analysis based on a small study, with a 6 month follow up. It did not include the cost of adverse events associated with treatment or the effects on other healthcare resource use other than GP consultations.
Choy 2010 <sup>133</sup>	This study was assessed as partially applicable with very serious limitations. It was considered to have methodological flaws such as: Most studies informing treatment effects are excluded from the clinical review.

7

### I.2.2 Opioid safety

9 None

### I.2.3 Gabapentinoid safety

11 None

# 1 Appendix J: Research recommendations

## J.1 Pharmacological interventions

3 **Research question: What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of gabapentinoids or**  
4 **local anaesthetics for managing complex regional pain syndrome in people aged 16**  
5 **years and over?**

6 **Why this is important:**

7 Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) is a condition that often has a significant impact  
8 on those who have it. It results in dysfunction within multiple body-systems. For this reason,  
9 the committee recognised that CRPS does not always fit easily within the categorisation of a  
10 chronic primary pain condition. Current Royal College of Physicians CRPS guidelines  
11 (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome in Adults – UK Guidelines for Diagnosis, Management &  
12 Referral in Primary & Secondary Care) recommend that pharmacological management of  
13 this condition should involve the use of neuropathic pain medication.

14 In their review of the evidence for pharmacological interventions in the management of  
15 chronic primary pain, the committee found limited evidence for some treatments, often in a  
16 limited range of pain conditions. The committee's clinical experience suggested that,  
17 although there was limited evidence discovered to support their use, local anaesthetic  
18 (injections or transdermal plasters) and gabapentinoids have been noted to provide relief to  
19 people with CRPS.

20 While the evidence was insufficient to support a recommendation for their general use for  
21 chronic pain, the committee concluded that, with a very limited range of treatment options, it  
22 was important to establish whether the continued use of these treatments in the  
23 management of CRPS was clinically justifiable and cost-effective.

24 **Criteria for selecting high-priority research recommendations:**

<b>PICO question</b>	Population: People, aged 16 and over, with complex regional pain syndrome Intervention(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local anaesthetic by injection or transdermal route</li><li>• Gabapentinoids.</li></ul> Comparison: Placebo (Note: A stepped approach can be taken for within-class comparisons. If the evidence suggests superiority of a particular class after the class-comparison, within class comparison of that class will be explored.) Outcome(s): Critical: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pain reduction</li><li>• Health related quality of life (including meaningful activity)</li><li>• Physical function</li><li>• Psychological distress (depression/ anxiety)</li><li>• Discontinuation due to adverse events</li></ul> Important: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of healthcare services</li><li>• Sleep</li></ul>
<b>Importance to patients or the population</b>	CRPS is often severely painful and associated with significant distress and disability with no known cure and few treatment options. Understanding the efficacy of commonly used neuropathic pain treatments applied to CRPS has great significance.

	Early, targeted treatment of people who have pain which might become CRPS might reduce the severity of the condition, limiting the impact. The committee's experience suggests these treatments may be helpful, but little research evidence was available to substantiate this. This gap in evidence is important to fill.
<b>Relevance to NICE guidance</b>	No recommendations for treating CRPS pain were made in this guideline. High quality studies investigating whether to recommend these commonly used neuropathic pain treatments for CRPS would allow evidence-based recommendations to be made in future guideline updates.
<b>Relevance to the NHS</b>	Limiting the course of pain after injury with successful treatment for people who seem to be developing CRPS would reduce the need for further treatment and future healthcare utilisation. Conversely, understanding whether gabapentinoids, which can lead to significant harms, are effective in treating CRPS might avoid the potential for harm to people with CRPS.
<b>National priorities</b>	None
<b>Current evidence base</b>	There was no evidence specific to people with CRPS identified in the guideline review of this evidence.
<b>Equality</b>	No effect on protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act.
<b>Study design</b>	Appropriately powered randomised controlled studies in adults with CRPS recognising the different phases observed in the condition (acute versus chronic or 'cold' CRPS). Measurement of change in pain intensity, function (including area affected by CRPS), and global functioning, quality of life; distress and well-being.
<b>Feasibility</b>	This research would require multi-centre design to recruit sufficient numbers. The trial is feasible and should be straightforward to carry out. Partnership working with patient groups would be essential to ensure recruitment of sufficient participants. Recruitment should be carried out by those experienced in using the Budapest diagnostic criteria.
<b>Other comments</b>	CRPS has few treatment options; it is thought intuitive that early treatment with neuropathic medication is the ideal, however a clear understanding of the efficacy of gabapentinoids and local anaesthetic treatments is currently lacking.
<b>Importance</b>	High: the research is essential to inform future updates of key recommendations in the guideline.

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## Appendices

### Appendix K: MIDs for continuous outcomes

**Table 36: MIDs for continuous outcomes (0.5 x SD): Anti-epileptics versus placebo**

Outcomes	MID
Pain reduction at ≤3 months (VAS, Brief Pain Inventory average pain severity score, range, McGill pain questionnaire, high is poor outcome, final values)	0.5 (SMD)
Pain reduction at ≤3 months (VAS percentage reduction, change scores)	21.77
Pain reduction at >3 months (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome, final values); chronic pelvic pain subgroup	0.86
Pain reduction at >3 months (Average daily pain score, 0-10, high is poor outcome, change scores); fibromyalgia subgroup	1.2
Quality of life at ≤3 months (SF-12 physical component, high is good outcome, 0-100, final values)	5.3
Quality of life ≤3 months (SF-12 mental component, high is good outcome, 0-100, final values)	5.3
Quality of life at ≤3 months (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome, final values)	9.05
Quality of life at >3 months (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome, change scores)	10.6
Physical function at ≤3 months (Pain Disability Questionnaire function subscale, 0-90, high is poor outcome, final values)	8.25
Physical function at >3 months (Pain Disability Questionnaire function subscale, 0-90 high is poor outcome)	7.4
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale anxiety subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	2.1
Psychological distress at >3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale anxiety subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	2.65
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale depression subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	2.25
Psychological distress at >3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale depression subscale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	2
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values)	3.9
Sleep at ≤3 months (Medical Outcomes Study Sleep Problems index score, 0-100, high is poor outcome, final values)	10.45



**Table 37: MIDs for continuous outcomes (0.5 x SD): SSRIs versus placebo**

Outcomes	MID
Pain reduction final values (VAS , medical outcomes study pain measure, high is poor outcome) ≤3 months	0.5 (SMD)
Pain reduction change scores (McGill pain questionnaire, Prostatitis symptom severity scale, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	0.5 (SMD)
Pain reduction (VAS final values, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	0.93
Quality of life at ≤3 months (FIQ total scores, 0-100, high is poor outcome, change scores)	6.8
Physical function (HAQ total scores, FIQ physical function subscale, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months	0.5 (SMD)
Physical function (physical impairment on Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-9.99, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months	1.05
Psychological distress (FIQ depression subscale, HADS-D, beck depression inventory, high is poor outcome) change scores ≤3 months	0.5 (SMD)
Psychological distress (FIQ anxiety subscale, AIMS anxiety, high is poor outcome) change scores at ≤3 months	0.5 (SMD)
Psychological distress (Beck depression scale, HADS:A, high is poor outcome) final values at ≤3 months	0.5 (SMD)
Psychological distress (HADS:A, 0-21, high is poor outcome, final values) at >3 months	1.65
Sleep (VAS sleep outcome, 0-15, high is poor outcome) final values at ≤3 months	1.92

**Table 38: MIDs for continuous outcomes (0.5 x SD): SNRIs versus placebo**

Outcomes	MID
Pain reduction (Brief Pain Inventory average pain severity, VAS, high is poor outcome) change scores at ≥3 months	1.26
Quality of life (Fibromyalgia impact questionnaire, 0-100, high is poor outcome) change scores at >3 months	8.2
Physical function (FIQ physical function subscale, Sheehan disability scale global functioning, high is poor outcome) change scores at >3 months	0.5 (SMD)
Psychological distress (Beck depression inventory, Hamilton rating scale for depression, high is poor outcome) change scores at >3 months	0.5 (SMD)
Sleep (Jenkins composite score, MOS-Sleep Index I, Brief pain inventory interference score for sleep, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≥3 months	0.5 (SMD)



**Table 39: MIDs for continuous outcomes (0.5 x SD): Tricyclics versus placebo**

Outcomes	MID
Pain reduction (VAS and McGill pain questionnaire, final values, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	0.5 (SMD)
Pain reduction (VAS 0-10, high is poor outcome) change scores at ≤3 months	1.20
Pain reduction change scores (VAS 0-100, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	7.45
Pain final values (McGill pain questionnaire, 0-78, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	7.20
Quality of life final values (FIQ, 0-100, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	3.99
Physical functioning (NPDI, % improvement) at ≤3 months	4.78
Physical function final values (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	0.28
Physical function final values (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome,) at >3 months	0.33
Psychological distress (HAD-D, % improvement) at ≤3 months	5.92
Psychological distress final values (Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale depression component, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	0.96
Psychological distress final values (Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale depression component, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at >3 months	0.93
Sleep disturbance (Bispectral index scale, % improvement) at ≤3 months	6.19

**Table 40: MIDs for continuous outcomes (0.5 x SD): Benzodiazepines versus placebo**

Outcomes	MID
Pain reduction final values and change scores (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	0.9
Physical function (HAQ disability index, 0-3 high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months	0.05
Psychological distress (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome, change scores) at ≤3 months	0.15
Psychological distress (BDI, depression adjective checklist, high is poor outcome, final values) at ≤3 months	0.5 (SMD)

**Table 41: MIDs for continuous outcomes (0.5 x SD): NSAIDs versus placebo**

Outcomes	MID
Pain reduction at ≤3 months (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome, change scores and final values)	0.69
Physical function at ≤3 months (HAQ disability index, 0-3 high is poor outcome, change scores)	0.05
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome, change scores)	0.15
Psychological distress at ≤3 months (HAM-D, depression adjective checklist, high is poor outcome, final values)	0.5 (SMD)

**Table 42: MIDs for continuous outcomes (0.5 x SD): Local anaesthetics versus placebo**

Outcomes	MID
Pain reduction change scores (VAS score 0-10, high is poor outcomes) at ≤3 months	2.93
Psychological distress (Beck depression inventory 0-63, change score; high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	2.72

**Table 43: MIDs for continuous outcomes (0.5 x SD): NSAIDs versus benzodiazepines**

Outcomes	MID
Pain reduction (VAS, 0-10, high is poor outcome, change scores and final values) at ≤3 months	0.93
Physical function change scores (HAQ disability index, 0-3, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	0.05
Psychological distress change scores (Centre for epidemiological studies depression scale, 0-30, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	0.15
Psychological distress final values (HAM-D, 0-21, high is poor outcome) at ≤3 months	2.15

**Table 44: MIDs for continuous outcomes (0.5 x SD): SNRIs versus anti-epileptics**

Outcomes	MID
Pain reduction at <3 months (Widespread Pain Index, 0-19, final value, high is poor outcome)	2.51
Quality of life at <3 months (SF-12 Physical component, 0-100, final value, high is good outcome)	9.96

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>MID</b>
Quality of life at <3 months (SF-12 Mental component, 0-100, final value, high is good outcome)	10.96
Psychological distress at <3 months (Beck Depression Inventory-II, 0-63, final value, high is poor outcome)	4.64