

Gabapentinoids

Gabapentinoids are a class of drugs that includes gabapentin and pregabalin. These medications are primarily used to treat neuropathic pain, a type of pain that results from damage or dysfunction of the nervous system. Neuropathic pain can be caused by conditions such as diabetic neuropathy, postherpetic neuralgia (nerve pain following shingles), and radiculopathy.

Gabapentinoids, specifically gabapentin and pregabalin, exert their effects by binding to a subunit (alpha-2-delta) of voltage-gated calcium channels in the central nervous system. This binding reduces the release of certain neurotransmitters, such as glutamate, which are involved in transmitting pain signals. By modulating the activity of these neurotransmitters, gabapentinoids help to decrease abnormal excitability in the nervous system, providing relief from neuropathic pain.

These medications are also sometimes prescribed for conditions like fibromyalgia and certain types of seizures. It's important to note that while gabapentin and pregabalin can be effective for some individuals, they may not be suitable for everyone. As with any medication, there can be side effects and potential interactions with other drugs. Therefore, it's crucial to use gabapentinoids under the supervision of a healthcare professional who can assess the individual's specific health situation and tailor the treatment according

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