

Triptan

Triptans are a family of tryptamine-based drugs used as abortive medication in the treatment of migraines and cluster headaches. This drug class was first introduced in the 1990s. While effective at treating individual headaches, they do not provide preventative treatment and are not considered a cure. They are not effective for the treatment of tension headache or other kinds of pain.

The drugs of this class act as agonists for serotonin 5-HT_{1B} and 5-HT_{1D} receptors at blood vessels and nerve endings in the brain. The first clinically available triptan was sumatriptan, which has been marketed since 1991.

Triptans were most commonly overused drugs among patients with [migraine](#). Fairly frequent overuse of combination-analgesics for migraine should raise concern ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Kluonaitis K, Petrauskiene E, Ryliskiene K. Clinical characteristics and overuse patterns of medication overuse headache: Retrospective case-series study. Clin Neurol Neurosurg. 2017 Oct 31;163:124-127. doi: 10.1016/j.clineuro.2017.10.029. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29101861.

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