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Wolters Kluwer

Therapeutic spectrum of antiseizure medications

Broad spectrum:

Drugs used to treat a broad range of seizure types (both focal and generalized onset)

- Brivaracetam
- Clobazam
- Felbamate
- Lamotrigine*
- Levetiracetam
- Perampanel
- Rufinamide
- Topiramate
- Valproate
- Zonisamide

Narrow spectrum (focal):

Drugs used primarily for focal-onset seizures (including focal evolving to bilateral convulsive seizures[¶])

- Carbamazepine^Δ
- Cenobamate
- Eslicarbazepine[◇]
- Gabapentin[◇]
- Lacosamide
- Oxcarbazepine[◇]
- Phenobarbital^Δ
- Phenytoin^Δ
- Pregabalin
- Primidone^Δ
- Stiripentol
- Tiagabine[◇]
- Vigabatrin[◇]

Narrow spectrum (absence):

Absence seizures only (a type of generalized seizure)

- Ethosuximide

Note that although there is evidence to support the use of these medications for these seizure types, the medication may not be indicated for this use by the US Food and Drug Administration.

* May worsen or precipitate myoclonic seizures.

¶ Previously referred to as secondary generalized seizures.

Δ Some evidence of efficacy for generalized-onset tonic-clonic seizures, but may also worsen certain generalized seizure types.

◇ Potential to worsen certain generalized seizure types.

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