

Treating Neuropathic Pain

A Global Study of Current Clinical Strategies

A global survey of current treatment and prescribing practices for Neuropathic Pain.

Focused on drug-based therapies, this report presents the findings of a comprehensive survey on current treatments for Neuropathic Pain, from details provided by more than 330 clinics worldwide.

Key information relevant to markets and opportunities in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

This study was conducted by between January and August 2009



Report Details

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Overview

This report presents the findings of a survey on current therapeutic approaches to the treatment of Neuropathic Pain (NP). These findings were made following the participation of more than 330 physicians worldwide, who provided details of their treatments and prescribing practices.

- Comprehensive details of current treatments for NP, provided by more than 330 clinics in 56 countries
- In-depth information relevant to markets and opportunities in the NP field.
- 98% of participants are practicing physicians, working in specialised areas of NP treatment. Of these, 78% described themselves as specialists in pain treatment.
- Leading participant countries were USA, Canada, UK, Australia, Denmark, France, Brazil, Germany, Netherlands and Belgium.
- 74% of the clinical centres participating in this study were hospital pain departments, specialised pain practices or private pain clinics.
- Detailed information on the use of specific drug classes including tricyclic antidepressants, SSRIs, SNRIs, anticonvulsants, sodium channel blockers, opioids, NSAIDs, cannabinoids and Capsaicin.
- Physicians have provided detailed feedback on the underlying pathologies associated with NP, seen in their patients.
- Comprehensive information on the most frequently prescribed drugs from nine drugs classes, including drug combinations, for the treatment of NP. It is believed this part of the survey provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date review and analysis in this area currently available.
- A detailed analysis of interventional methods used for the treatment of NP (e.g. peripheral nerve block, TENS).
- An assessment of average levels of pain relief achieved in the treatment of NP, in relation to 12 underlying conditions.
- Informative views of participating physicians on current limitations, challenges and issues relating to the treatment of NP.



Introduction

With estimated prevalence levels of 3-10%, the treatment of NP remains an area of significant unmet need. NP is highly individual in its presentation, level, underlying pathology and response to therapy. For some patients, available therapies give satisfactory pain control. For many others, treatments are poor or do not work at all. Therapeutic options include more than ten drug classes, which are commonly prescribed in combinations that are tailored to patient needs.

Interventional treatments, such as peripheral nerve block and transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation are also used, as physicians seek other approaches to treating NP. This background, the individual presentation of NP and the drug or drug combination options available to patients, has created a complex therapeutic picture.

In a therapeutic field where treatments are often unsatisfactory, physicians seek to extend their understanding of NP in an effort to define limitations and needs. Knowledge in these areas is also important to drug developers, who seek a better understanding of patient needs and outcomes, as part of their own efforts to develop more effective therapies. To meet current interest in these areas, a survey has been conducted on current clinical approaches to the treatment of NP. This survey involved the participation of more than 330 clinical centres in 56 countries worldwide.

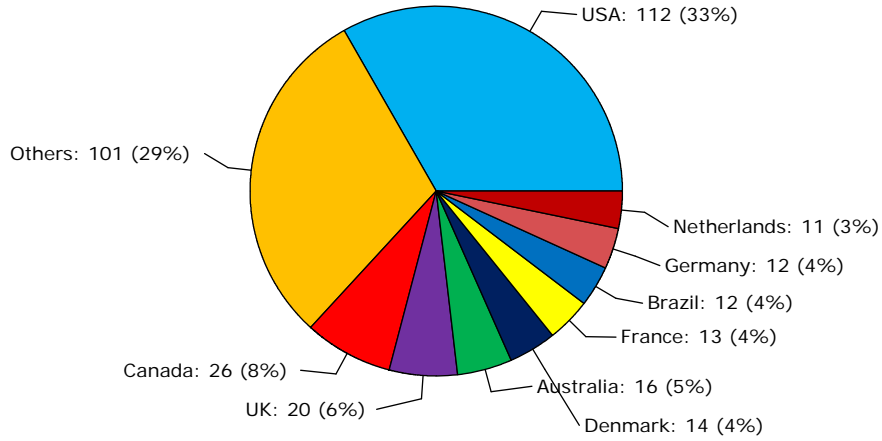
Information Surveyed

- ◆ Participant details: Participant organisation, type of clinical practice or department; type of pain physician
- ◆ NP treatment strategies: Relative proportion of drug and interventional treatments
- ◆ Diagnoses and underlying pathologies: For example, Diabetes, post cancer radiotherapy or chemotherapy, post general surgery, Trigeminal Neuralgia, viral Infections, injury/trauma, post back surgery, primary back problems, complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS), Multiple Sclerosis, central pain, Arthritis, Others NP pathologies
- ◆ Single or combined drug treatments
- ◆ Drug classes used: For example, tricyclic antidepressants, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin-noradrenalin reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), anticonvulsants, sodium channel blockers, opioids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, cannabinoids, Capsaicin and others
- ◆ Tricyclic Antidepressants: First, second and third most frequently used
- ◆ Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors: First, second and third most frequently used
- ◆ Serotonin-noradrenalin reuptake inhibitors: First, second and third most frequently used
- ◆ Anticonvulsants: First, second and third most frequently used
- ◆ Sodium Channel Blockers: First, second and third most frequently used
- ◆ Opioids: First, second and third most frequently used
- ◆ Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs: First, second and third most frequently used
- ◆ Cannabinoids
- ◆ Capsaicin
- ◆ Drug combinations: First, second and third most frequently used drug combinations (i.e. combinations of two, three or more than three specific drug classes)
- ◆ Pain relief: Pain relief profile for the major underlying pathologies (levels of pain relief for each underlying pathology)
- ◆ Interventional treatments: use of interventional treatments such as epidural injections, facet joint injections, facet joint denervation, large joint injections, medical acupuncture, nerve root blocks, peripheral nerve blocks, prolotherapy, sympathetic blocks, lumbar sympathectomy, spinal manipulation, trigger point injections, tendon sheath/bursa injections, intrathecal injection, spinal chord stimulation, intramuscular stimulation, TENS and others.
- ◆ Clinical issues and challenges in the treatment of NP: Individual responses from physicians to this question
- ◆ Any other comments on the treatment of Neuropathic Pain: Individual responses from physicians to this question

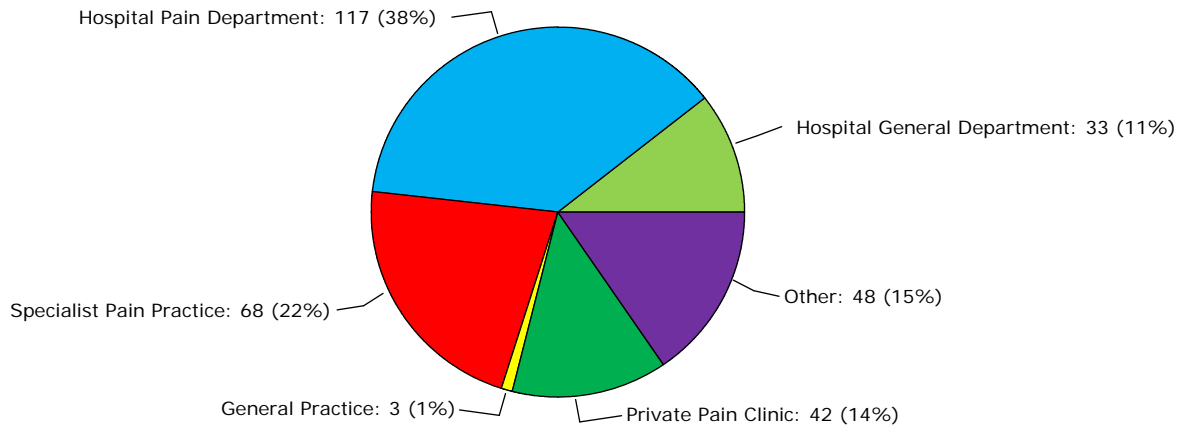


Study Participants

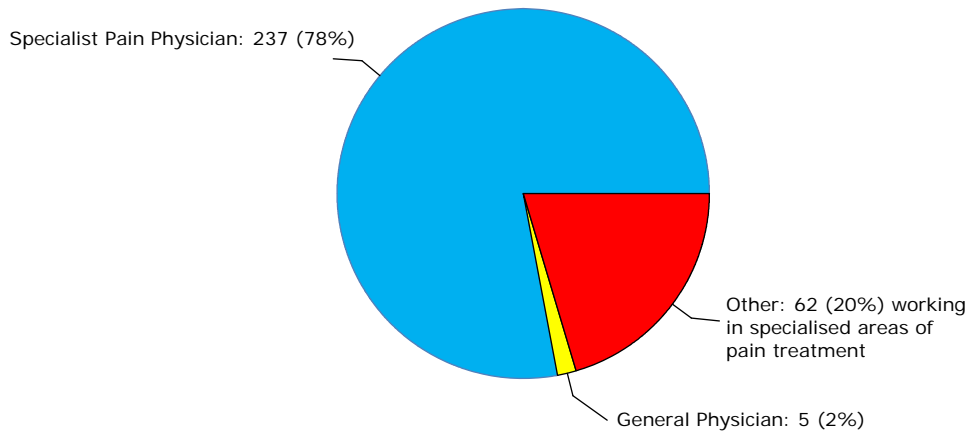
Countries



Clinical Centres



Physicians



Neuropathic Pain

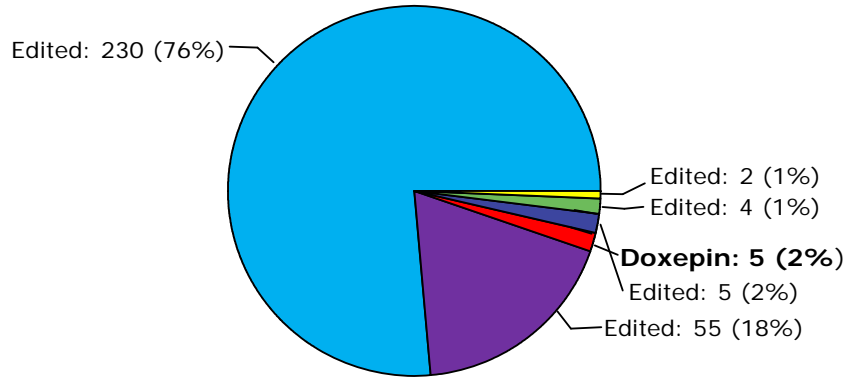
Treatments and Prescribing Practices

A Global Survey

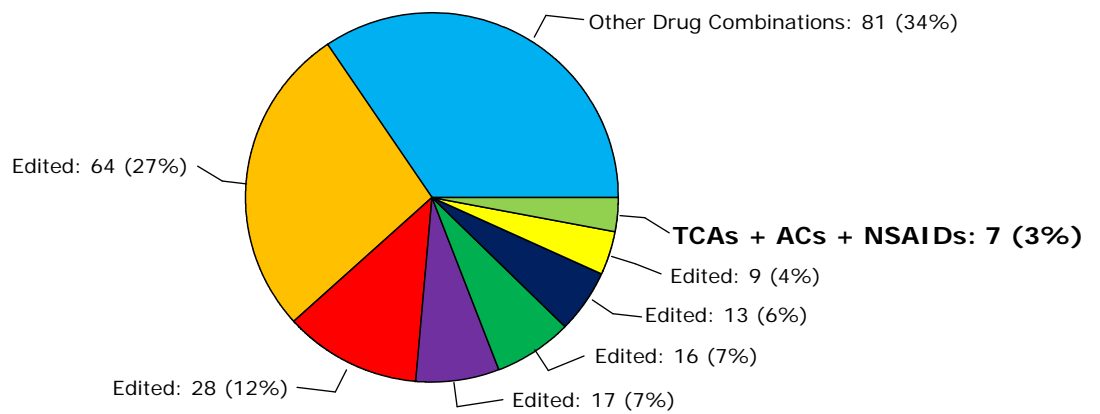


Sample Data (Restricted)

Most frequently prescribed tricyclic antidepressants



Most frequently used drug class combinations



Neuropathic Pain

Treatments and Prescribing Practices

A Global Survey



Report Contents

Chapter	Page
1. Introduction	12
2. Study Design and Conduct	15
3. Study Participants	21
4. Interventional Treatments	27
5. Underlying Diagnoses	31
6. Single or Multiple Drugs	41
7. Drug Classes	46
8. Tricyclic Antidepressants	53
9. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors	56
10. Serotonin Noradrenalin Reuptake Inhibitors	60
11. Anticonvulsants	63
12. Sodium Channel Blockers	67
13. Opioids	70
14. Non Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drugs	74
15. Drug Combinations	78
16. Pain Relief	91
17. Use of Interventional Treatments	101
18. Discussion	109
19. Participant Details	114
Appendix 1	118
Appendix 2	158



Report Figures and Tables

Figure 3.1 Participant Countries

Figure 3.2 Participant Organisations

Figure 3.3 Participating Physicians

Figure 4.1 The use of interventional treatments by participating physicians

Figure 5.1 Percentage of physicians indicating that 20% or more of their patients' Neuropathic Pain are associated with the diagnosis indicated

Figure 5.2 Mean percentage of physicians (Mean%p) who diagnosed NP in patients with specific underlying conditions

Figure 5.3 Neuropathic pain in patients associated with Diabetes

Figure 5.4 Neuropathic pain in patients associated with cancer radiotherapy or chemotherapy

Figure 5.5 Neuropathic pain in patients post general surgery

Figure 5.6 Neuropathic pain in patients with Trigeminal Neuralgia

Figure 5.7 Neuropathic pain in patients with viral infection

Figure 5.8 Neuropathic pain in patients with injury or trauma

Figure 5.9 Neuropathic pain in patients post back surgery

Figure 5.10 Neuropathic pain in patients with primary back problems

Figure 5.11 Neuropathic pain in patients with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS)

Figure 5.12 Neuropathic pain in patients with Multiple Sclerosis

Figure 5.13 Neuropathic pain in patients with Central Pain

Figure 5.14 Neuropathic pain in patients with Arthritis

Figure 5.15 Neuropathic pain in patients with other conditions

Table 5.1 Other diagnoses associated with Neuropathic Pain

Table 6.1 Single drug use in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Table 6.2 Two drugs used in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Table 6.3 Three drugs used in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Table 6.4 More than three drugs used in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Table 6.5 Mean drug regimens in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.1 Percentage of physicians prescribing the drug classes indicated, to more than 20% of their patients

Figure 7.2 The use of Tricyclic antidepressants in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.3 The use of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.4 The use of Serotonin-Noradrenalin Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.5 The use of Anticonvulsants in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.6 The use of Sodium Channel Blockers in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.7 The use of Opioids in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.8 The use of Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.9 The use of Cannabinoids in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.10 The use of Capsaicin in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 7.11 Average drug class prescribing practices in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 8.1 Most frequently prescribed tricyclic antidepressants in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 8.2 Second most frequently prescribed tricyclic antidepressants in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 8.3 Third most frequently prescribed tricyclic antidepressants in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 9.1 Most frequently prescribed Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 9.2 Second most frequently prescribed Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 9.3 Third most frequently prescribed Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain



Report Figures and Tables (Continued)

Figure 10.1 Most frequently prescribed Serotonin-Noradrenalin Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 10.2 Second most frequently prescribed Serotonin-Noradrenalin Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 10.3 Third most frequently prescribed Serotonin-Noradrenalin Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 11.1 Most frequently prescribed Anticonvulsants in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 11.2 Second most frequently prescribed Anticonvulsants in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 11.3 Third most frequently prescribed Anticonvulsants in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 12.1 Most frequently prescribed Sodium Channel Blockers in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 12.2 Second most frequently prescribed Sodium Channel Blockers in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 12.3 Third most frequently prescribed Sodium Channel Blockers in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 13.1 Most frequently prescribed Opioids in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 13.2 Second most frequently prescribed opioids in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 13.3 Third most frequently prescribed opioids in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 14.1 Most frequently prescribed Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 14.2 Second most frequently prescribed Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 14.3 Third most frequently prescribed Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Table 15.1a Most frequently used drug class combinations for the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 15.1 Most frequently used drug class combinations for the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 15.2 Most frequently used numbers of drugs used in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain.

Table 15.2a Second most frequently used drug class combinations for the treatment of Neuropathic Pain.

Figure 15.3 Second most frequently used drug class combinations for the treatment of Neuropathic Pain.

Figure 15.4 Second most frequently used drug numbers used in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain.

Table 15.3a. Third most frequently used drug class combinations for the treatment of Neuropathic Pain.

Figure 15.5 Third most frequently used drug class combinations for the treatment of Neuropathic Pain.

Figure 15.6 Third most frequently used numbers of drugs in the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 16.1 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with Diabetes.

Figure 16.2 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with cancer radiotherapy or cancer chemotherapy

Figure 16.3 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients following general surgery

Figure 16.4 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with Trigeminal Neuralgia

Figure 16.5 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with viral infection.

Figure 16.6 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with injury or trauma

Figure 16.7 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients post back surgery.

Figure 16.8 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with primary back problems

Figure 16.9 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS)



Report Figures and Tables (Continued)

Figure 16.10 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with Multiple Sclerosis

Figure 16.11 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with Central Pain.

Figure 16.12 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with Arthritis.

Figure 16.13 Average relief from Neuropathic Pain (% reduction) following treatment in patients with other conditions.

Figure 16.14 Comparative average relief from NP (% reduction) following pain treatment in for all underlying conditions

Table 16.1 Comparative average relief from NP (% reduction) following pain treatment in for all underlying conditions

Figure 17.1 The percentage of physicians who use interventional treatments for Neuropathic Pain

Figure 17.2 The use of interventional treatments by physicians for Neuropathic Pain (number of practitioner responses for each treatment)

Figure 17.3 The use of interventional treatments by physicians for Neuropathic Pain (average % of physicians using treatments)

Table 17.1 The use of interventional treatments by physicians for Neuropathic Pain (number of practitioner responses for each treatment)

Table 17.2 The use of interventional treatments by physicians for Neuropathic Pain (average % of physicians using treatments)

Table 17.3 Other interventional treatments used by physicians for the treatment of Neuropathic Pain

Figure 19.1 Study participants

Appendix 1. Responses of study participants to the question: What are the major issues and challenges associated with the treatment of neuropathic pain? Responses given by physicians to this question (which in some cases may be brief, informal or abbreviated) are presented "as is", except in those cases where minor grammatical or typographical corrections have been necessary for reasons of clarity.

Appendix 2. Responses of study participants to the question: Any further comments relating to the treatment of Neuropathic Pain? Responses physicians to this question by physicians (which in some cases may be brief, informal or abbreviated) are presented "as is", except in those cases where minor grammatical or typographical corrections have been necessary for reasons of clarity.

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