### References


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### Appendix 4A: Characteristics of randomized, placebo-controlled trials involving patients with neuropathic pain that were included in the meta-analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study report</th>
<th>Study population, n (withdrawals)</th>
<th>Intervention and dosage</th>
<th>End points and outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Harati 1998, USA Parallel Quality: 5 | Diabetic neuropathy 131 (49) | Tramadol 50-400 mg/d for 6 wk | Primary: pain intensity* (5-point Likert scale)  
Secondary: pain relief, quality of life (Medical Outcomes Study) — physical functioning,* social functioning, current health perception, psychological distress, overall role functioning, and the 2 overall sleep problem indexes and sleep subscales  
Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8 |
| Sindrup 1999, Germany Crossover design Quality: 5 | Polyneuropathy 45 (11) | Tramadol 200-400 mg/d for 4 wk | Primary: pain ratings* (0-10 NRS), paresthesia and touch-evoked pain.  
Secondary: dynamic allodynia, rescue medication, patient’s preference  
Results: see Appendix 5 |
| Boureau 2003, France Parallel Quality: 5 | Postherpetic neuralgia 127 (19) | Tramadol 100-400 mg/d for 6 wk | Primary: pain intensity (100-mm VAS* and 5-point NRS)  
Secondary: Global improvement, quality of life (Nottingham scale) and rescue medication (paracetamol)  
Results: see Appendix 5 |
| Watson and Babul 1998, Canada Crossover design Quality: 3 | Postherpetic neuralgia 50 (12 lost to follow-up) | CR oxycodone 20-60 (mean 45) mg/d for 4 wk | Primary: pain intensity (100-mm VAS* and 5-point categorical scale)  
Secondary: pain relief, steady pain, skin pain, disability* (a categorical scale: 0 = no disability, 3 = severe disability), BDI, POMS  
Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8 |
| Watson 2003, Canada Crossover design Quality: 4 | Diabetic neuropathy 45 (3) | CR oxycodone 20-80 (mean 40) mg/d for 4 wk | Primary: pain intensity (100-mm VAS* and 5-point categorical scale)  
Secondary: pain relief, steady pain, skin pain, pain, PDI,* SF-36, pain and sleep questionnaires  
Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8 |
| Gimbel 2003, USA Parallel Quality: 5 | Diabetic neuropathy 159 (44) | CR oxycodone 20-120 (mean 37) mg/d for 6 wk | Primary: pain intensity* (0-10 numeric scale)  
Secondary: current and worse pain, satisfaction, BPI (physical function score,* SF-36  
Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8 |
| Huse 2001, Germany Crossover Quality: 4 | Phantom limb pain 12 (3) | Oral retard morphine 70-300 (mean 120) mg/d for 4 wk | Primary: pain intensity* (2-cm VAS)  
Secondary: PES, SDS, PRSS, WHYMPI, BSS  
Results: see Appendix 5 |
| Harke 2001, Germany Parallel Quality: 4 | Peripheral neuropathy 38 (3) | SR morphine 90 mg/d for 1 wk | Pain intensity* (0-10 numeric analogue scale)  
Results: see Appendix 5 |
| Raja 2002, USA Crossover Quality: 4 | Postherpetic neuralgia 76 (32) | CR morphine 15-240 (mean 91) mg/d or methadone 15 mg/d for 6 wk | Primary: pain intensity* (0-10 NRS)  
Secondary: pain relief, cognitive function, MPI* (physical functioning subscale), sleep, mood, global preference  
Results: see Appendixes 5 and 8 |

*Note: Studies are ordered according to the opioids investigated, from weaker to stronger. NRS = numeric rating scale, CR = controlled-release, VAS = visual analog scale, BPI = Brief Pain Inventory, POMS = Profile of Mood State, PDI = Pain Disability Index, SF-36 = Short Form 36 Health Survey, BPI = Brief Pain Inventory, PES = Pain Experience Scale, SDS = Self-Rating Depression Scale, PRSS = Pain-Related Self-Statement Scale, WHYMPI = West Haven-Yale Multidimensional Pain Inventory, BSS = Brief Stress Scale, SR = sustained release, MPI = Multidimensional Pain Inventory.  
*Data used in the meta-analysis.