

Medications for AUD Treatment in Adults

Withdrawal Management

- Benzodiazepine
 - Chlordiazepoxide (Librium)
 - Diazepam (Valium)
 - Lorazepam (Ativan)
 - Phenobarbital (Luminal)
- GABA-ergics
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol)
 - Gabapentin (Neurontin)
 - Valproic acid (Depakote)

Relapse Prevention

- On-Label
 - Acamprosate (Campral)
 - Disulfiram (Antibuse)
 - Naltrexone (ReVia & Vivitrol)
- Off-Label
 - Gabapentin (Neurontin)
 - Topiramate (Topamax)
 - Baclofen (Gablofen, Lioresal)

Benzodiazepine – Withdrawal Management

Chlordiazepoxide (Librium)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 5mg, 10mg, 25mg capsules

Daily Dose

- Symptom-driven or fixed dose-and-taper protocols

Half-Life

- Intermediate acting (10-30 hours)

Cost

- 0.18\$-4.33\$ per capsule

Benzodiazepine – Withdrawal Management

Chlordiazepoxide (Librium)

Common Side Effects

- Confusion
- Drowsiness
- Restlessness
- Irritability
- Tolerance
- Misuse

Precautions

- Dose adjustment in elderly
- Psychiatric patients
- Hyperactive aggressive pediatric patients

Other

- Preferred for patients with liver dysfunction

Benzodiazepine – Withdrawal Management

Diazepam (Valium)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 2mg, 5mg, 10mg tablets

Daily Dose

- Symptom-driven or fixed dose-and-taper protocols

Half-Life

- Long acting (20-100 hours)

Cost

- 0.14\$-4.88\$ per tablet

Benzodiazepine – Withdrawal Management

Diazepam (Valium)

Common Side Effects

- Confusion
- Drowsiness
- Restlessness
- Irritability
- Tolerance
- Misuse

Precautions

- Pregnancy
- Other substance use disorder
- Depression
- Seizures
- Glaucoma

Benzodiazepine – Withdrawal Management

Lorazepam (Ativan)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 0.5mg, 1mg, 2mg tablets

Daily Dose

- Symptom-driven or fixed dose-and-taper protocols

Half-Life

- Short acting (10-20 hours)

Cost

- 0.39\$-0.56\$ per tablet

Benzodiazepine – Withdrawal Management

Lorazepam (Ativan)

Common Side Effects

- Confusion
- Drowsiness
- Restlessness
- Irritability
- Tolerance
- Misuse

Precautions

- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Glaucoma
- Psychosis
- Other substance use

Barbiturate – Withdrawal Management

Phenobarbital (Luminal)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 15mg, 16.2mg, 30mg, 32.4mg, 60mg, 100mg tabs, 20mg/5ml elixir

Daily Dose

- Symptom-driven or fixed dose-and-taper protocols

Half-Life

- 80-120 hours

Cost

- \$15 per tablet; \$50 for 375ml elixir

Barbiturate – Withdrawal Management

Phenobarbital (Luminal)

Common Side Effects

- Somnolence
- Sedation
- Restlessness
- Respiratory depression

Precautions

- Other substance use
- Pregnancy
- Carcinogenic

Other

- Narrow therapeutic window
- Considered third-line
- Monitor for toxicity

GABAergics – Withdrawal Management

Carbamazepine (Tegretol)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 100 mg, 200 mg, 300 mg capsules

Daily Dose

- 800mg Day 1 tapering to 200mg Day 4 in divided doses

Half-Life

- 35-40 hours

Cost

- 0.20\$-1.21\$ per capsule

GABAergics – Withdrawal Management

Carbamazepine (Tegretol)

Common Side Effects

- Blurred vision
- Continuous back and forth eye movements
- Diarrhea
- Headaches

Precautions

- Use of MAO inhibitor
- Psychosis
- History of suicide
- Light sensitivity

GABAergics – Withdrawal Management

Gabapentin (Neurontin)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 100 mg, 300 mg, 400 mg capsules
- 600 mg, 800 mg tablets

Daily Dose

- 600 - 1200 mg divided into 2 to 3 doses daily, tapering over 4 to 7 days

Half-Life

- 5-7 hours

Cost

- 0.14\$-4.17\$ per capsule/tab

GABAergics – Withdrawal Management

Gabapentin (Neurontin)

Common Side Effects

- Ataxia
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Fatigue

Precautions

- Mental illness
- Seizures
- Pregnancy

Other

- Physical dependence

GABAergics – Withdrawal Management

Valproic acid (Depakote)

Route

- Oral

Daily Dose

- 500 mg: One twice daily for 5 to 7 days

Half-Life

- 4-16 hours

Cost

- 0.32\$-0.40\$/250mg tab

GABAergics – Withdrawal Management

Valproic acid (Depakote)

Common Side Effects

- Drowsiness
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Weight changes

Precautions

- Breastfeeding
- Drowsiness

On-Label Relapse Prevention

Acamprosate (Campral)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 333 mg

Daily Dose

- 2 x 333 mg tab po TID or 3 x 333 mg tab po BID

Half-Life

- 20-33 hours

Cost

- \$70-200/month

On-Label Relapse Prevention

Acamprosate (Campral)

Common Side Effects

- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Depression
- Anxiety

Precautions

- Dose adjustment for CrCl 30-50ml/min
- Unstable depression or suicidality

Other

- Patient selection: Impulsivity issues or protracted withdrawal symptoms

On-Label Relapse Prevention

Disulfiram (Antibuse)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 125 mg, 250 mg, 500 mg

Daily Dose

- 250 mg once daily

Half-Life

- 60-120 hours

Cost

- \$54.90/month

On-Label Relapse Prevention

Disulfiram (Antibuse)

Common Side Effects

- Metallic taste
- Dermatitis

Precautions

- Psychosis
- DM
- Epilepsy
- Hepatic dysfunction
- Thyroid disease
- Renal impairment
- Dermatitis

Other

- Patient should be highly motivated and monitored

On-Label Relapse Prevention

Naltrexone (ReVia – oral) (Vivitrol – IM)

Route

- Oral, IM

Formulation

- 50 mg tab
- 380 mg IM

Daily Dose

- 50mg tab po q day
- 380mg IM q month

Half-Life

- 4-13 hours

Cost

- Tabs: \$130-300+/month
- Single dose vial: \$1500 /month

On-Label Relapse Prevention

Naltrexone (ReVia – oral) (Vivitrol – IM)

Common Side Effects

- Nausea
- Abdominal pain
- Constipation
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Anxiety
- Fatigue

Precautions

- Liver disease
- Renal impairment
- History of suicide attempts

Other

- Patient selection:
 - Family history of alcohol dependency or
 - Concurrent Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)

Off-Label Relapse Prevention

Gabapentin (Neurontin)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 200 mg, 300 mg, 400 mg capsules

Daily Dose

- 600-1200 mg divided into 2 to 3 doses daily, tapering over 4 to 7 days

Half-Life

- 5-7 hours

Cost

- \$8-250/month

Off-Label Relapse Prevention

Gabapentin (Neurontin)

Common Side Effects

- Ataxia
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Fatigue

Precautions

- Mental illness
- Seizures
- Pregnancy

Other

- Physical dependence and misuse

Off-Label Relapse Prevention

Topiramate (Topamax)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg tabs

Daily Dose

- 300 mg/day po max

Half-Life

- 19-23 hours

Cost

- \$9-500/month

Off-Label Relapse Prevention

Topiramate (Topamax)

Common Side Effects

- Numbness and tingling
- Change in taste
- Decreased appetite
- Concentration

Precautions

- Renal impairment with dose adjustment for CrCl < 70ml/min
- Depression
- Glaucoma

Other

- Patient selection: Can start non sober

Off-Label Relapse Prevention

Baclofen (Gablofen, Lioresal)

Route

- Oral

Formulation

- 5mg, 10mg, 20mg tabs

Daily Dose

- 60mg-180+ mg daily, in divided doses

Half-Life

- 2-6 hours

Cost

- \$60-300/month

Off-Label Relapse Prevention

Baclofen (Gablofen, Lioresal)

Common Side Effects

- Drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Urinary retention

Precautions

- Renal impairment (cleared renally)
- H/o seizure disorder
- Avoid abrupt discontinuation
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Decreases GI motility
- H/o psychosis

Other

- Not used as first-line
- Non sober start ok
- Titrate by 10mg q3 days to effective dose