



Valley Pain Specialists, PC

Consultants in Acute and Chronic Pain Management

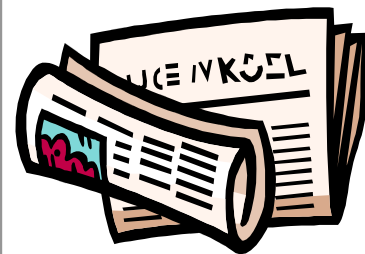
Steven Mortazavi, M.D.

Kevin Hsu, M.D.

Christy Niemkiewicz, P.A.-C

Craig Hartigan, P.A.-C

NEWSLETTER[©]



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Milnacipran Approved For Fibromyalgia

The FDA has approved milnacipran HCl (Savella[®], Forest Laboratories and Cypress Bioscience) for the treatment of fibromyalgia, making it the third drug to reach the market for fibromyalgia.

The mechanism of action of milnacipran is via selective inhibition of serotonin and norepinephrine (SNRI). Although similar in mechanism to duloxetine (Cymbalta[®]), Savella[®] appears to have a greater effect on norepinephrine than serotonin .

Patients in phase III clinical trials (1460 milnacipran, 624 placebo) received daily doses of 100-200 mg/day. End points measured included improvements in pain, physical functioning, and patients' global impression of change. At three months milnacipran-treated patients reported statistically greater improvements in pain reduction and global assessment of pain.

With two well known approved drugs on the market (Cymbalta[®], Lyrica[®]) Savalla[®] may have a difficult time gaining acceptance with cost, and insurance barriers remaining a possible issue.

Most clinicians who deal with and treat fibromyalgia patients would agree that we are in need of more options to treat and deal with this complex pain disorder.

Milnacipran is contraindicated in patients taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors. Concomitant administration with tramadol, triptans, or other drugs which impair serotonin metabolism may develop potentially fatal serotonin syndrome.

Miller, Gabriel. *Anesthesiology News*. February 2009. Volume No. 35 Number2, pp 12.

For Information and Referrals:

(610) 954-9040

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