

57. Neurontin for DVT-related chronic pain

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Q: "What is your experience or opinion on the use of Neurontin® for DVT-related leg pain?"

A: Neurontin (= Gabapentin) has, to my knowledge, never been studied in patients with chronic leg pain due to post-thrombotic syndrome. I think it is reasonable to try it for a few months if the patient has significant pain not responsive to other measures (compression stocking, pain medication), and see whether the patient derives any benefit from it. Optimally, a study should be performed that would give Neurontin to half of the patients enrolled and a placebo to the other half, with enrolled patients not knowing which of the two they are getting (double blind randomized cross over trial).

Neurontin (= Gabapentin) is an anti-seizure medication that has also been found to be effective in chronic pain syndromes, peripheral neuropathy due to diabetes, and pain following herpes zoster infection (= post-herpetic neuralgia). The most common side effects are somnolence, dizziness, unsteady gait, and fatigue. These effects are usually mild to moderate in severity and resolve within 2 weeks of onset during continued treatment. Overall, Neurontin is well tolerated.