



## NEUROPATHIC PAIN IN ADHESIVE ARACHNOIDITIS

Neuropathic pain occurs when bioelectricity is blocked and accumulates in nerves that are damaged so that normal transmission cannot take place. AA is an inflammatory-adhesive mass that entraps cauda equina nerve roots and prohibits normal bioelectric transmission to legs, feet, bladder, intestine, and sex organs. Consequently, neuropathic pain may be severe in AA, and it must be treated.

### How Nerves Transmit Bioelectricity

Bioelectricity is transmitted by receptors ("action points") in nerves called gamma amino butyric acid (GABA). This receptor is activated by a neurotransmitter by the same name. When the GABA receptor is activated it permits bioelectricity to pass and pain is relieved. Neuropathic agents activate or stimulate the GABA receptor.

### Neuropathic Pain is Mild, Moderate, or Severe

AA may produce severe neuropathic pain because nerves are entrapped.

### Side Effects of Neuropathic Agents

The agents may all cause sedation particularly when used with opioids. They can be abused, so there are restrictions on their use.

<u>TODAY'S TREATMENT AGENTS</u>		
<u>Mild/Moderate Pain</u>	<u>Severe Pain</u>	<u>Herbal Medicinals</u>
Gabapentin Pregabalin (Lyrica®) Baclofen	Diazepam (Valium®) Alprazolam (Xanax®) Carisoprodol (Soma®) Topiramate (Topamax®)	KAVA Ashwaganda Valerian root

### Forced Reduction

Some patients are being forced to stop the benzodiazepines, Valium or Xanax. In this case a combination of KAVA and ashwaganda may substitute.

### Summary

A person with constant intractable pain will need a medicinal for ascending, descending, and neuropathic pain.