

Prescription Medications for Treatment of Opioid-Induced Constipation (OIC)

Medication Name ^{1,2} (Brand Name)	FDA-Approval Date	FDA-Labeled Indication	Mechanism of Action	Typical Starting Dose in Adult Patients	Dosing Pearls	Time to Bowel Movement	Common and <i>Serious</i> Adverse Effects
Linaclotide (Linzess®)	August 2012	No	Increases ion secretion into the GI tract	72 mcg PO once daily	No dose adjustments for renal or hepatic dysfunction	Within 1 week of consistent use	Diarrhea, headache, fatigue, dehydration, abdominal pain, flatulence, vomiting
Lubiprostone (Amitiza®)	January 2006	Yes	Increases ion secretion into the GI tract	24 mcg PO twice daily	No dose adjustments for renal dysfunction; Dose adjust in moderate-severe hepatic dysfunction	24-48 hr	Nausea, diarrhea, headache, abdominal pain, flatulence, vomiting, <i>dyspnea, syncope</i>
Methylnaltrexone³ (Relistor®)	April 2008 (SQ); July 2016 (PO)	Yes	Peripherally-acting μ opioid receptor antagonist	12 mg SQ once daily 450 mg PO once daily	Dose in the morning; No more than 1 dose in a 24-hour period; Dose adjust for CrCL < 60 mL/min; Avoid in moderate to severe hepatic dysfunction	30-60 min	Abdominal pain, flatulence, nausea, diarrhea, hyperhidrosis, vomiting, <i>GI perforation, opioid withdrawal</i>
Naldemedine (Symproic®) <i>Schedule II</i>	March 2017	Yes	Peripherally-acting μ , δ , and κ opioid receptor antagonist	0.2 mg PO once daily	No dose adjustments for renal dysfunction; Avoid use in severe hepatic dysfunction	Unknown	Abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, gastroenteritis, <i>GI perforation, opioid withdrawal</i>
Naloxegol (Movantik®)	September 2014	Yes	Peripherally-acting μ opioid receptor antagonist	25 mg PO once daily	Dose in the morning; Dose adjust for CrCL < 60 mL/min; Avoid use in severe hepatic dysfunction	6-12 hr	Abdominal pain, flatulence, nausea, diarrhea, hyperhidrosis, vomiting, headache, <i>GI perforation, opioid withdrawal</i>

Abbreviations: mg, milligram; PO, by mouth; PR, by rectum; hr, hour; min, minute; g, gram; mL, milliliter; mcg, microgram; SQ, subcutaneous; CrCL, creatinine clearance; min, minute; GI, gastrointestinal

¹ All medications are currently available only as branded products.

² Alvimopan (Entereg®) used off label in an inpatient setting is not included in this table.

³ Mylan Labs Ltd has received tentative approval for a generic form of subcutaneous methylnaltrexone.

References

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