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Display Settings: ☒ Abstract Wolters Kluwer Health | Lippincott Williams & WilkinsClin J Pain. 2000 Jun;16(2 Suppl):S73-9.**The use of NMDA-receptor antagonists in the treatment of chronic pain.**Hewitt DJ.**+ Author information****Abstract**

Chronic pain can be maintained by a state of sensitization within the central nervous system that is mediated in part by the excitatory amino acids glutamate and aspartate binding to the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor. A number of antagonists to the NMDA receptor are antinociceptive in animal models but are associated with significant dose-limiting side effects. **Commercially available NMDA-receptor antagonists include ketamine, dextromethorphan, memantine, and amantadine. The opioids methadone, dextropropoxyphene, and ketobemidone are also antagonists at the NMDA receptor. The NMDA-receptor antagonists have a significant impact on the development of tolerance to opioid analgesics. Consequently, NMDA-receptor antagonists may represent a new class of analgesics and may have potential as coanalgesics when used in combination with opioids.**

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