



> [Pain Manag.](#) 2017 Jul;7(4):331-339. doi: 10.2217/pmt-2016-0063. Epub 2017 Apr 24.

## Considering tapentadol as a first-line analgesic: 14 questions

Joseph V Pergolizzi Jr <sup>1</sup>, Frank Breve <sup>2 3</sup>, Robert Taylor Jr <sup>1</sup>, Robert B Raffa <sup>4 5</sup>,  
Stephani E Strasburger <sup>1</sup>, Jo Ann LeQuang <sup>1</sup>

Affiliations

PMID: 28434283 DOI: [10.2217/pmt-2016-0063](https://doi.org/10.2217/pmt-2016-0063)

### Abstract

Tapentadol is the newest centrally acting analgesic to be approved by the US FDA and regulatory bodies in other countries. It has been called the first-in-class of a novel-acting analgesic mechanism of action that combines  $\mu$ -opioid receptor agonist activity with neuronal norepinephrine-reuptake inhibition in a single molecule. This duality of action should combine inhibition of ascending (afferent) pain-transmitting signals with activation of descending (efferent) pain-attenuating systems (e.g., diffuse noxious inhibitory controls). However, not all novel mechanisms of action impart the characteristics needed for an analgesic to be considered for first-line therapy. These key questions may help inform clinical decision making.

. . . . . analgesic; multimodal; nonopioid; opioid; pain therapy; reuptake inhibition.

### Related information

[PubChem Compound \(MeSH Keyword\)](#)

### LinkOut - more resources

Full Text Sources

[Atypon](#)

Other Literature Sources

[scite Smart Citations](#)

Medical

[MedlinePlus Health Information](#)