

DRUG	Category	Use	Mechanism of Action	Side Effects
Acamprosate	NMDA receptor antagonist & GABA agonist	Alcohol abuse	Enhance abstinence and prevent opiate effects	
Acarbose	Intestinal alpha-glucosidase inhibitor	Antidiabetic	Competitive inhibition of maltose to glucose	Bloating, flatulence, diarrhoea
Acetaminophen	Weak inhibitor of PGE synthesis	Analgesic, antipyretic		Hepatotoxicity (if above threshold)
Amiloride	Epithelial Na ⁺ channel blocker	Diuretic	Block channel = reduced Na reabsorption from lumen = inhibits Na/K ⁺ pump = decrease K ⁺ secretion	Risk potassium distention
Amitrytyline, Imipramine	Tricyclic antidepressants		Agonist at 5-HT and Nor transporters = inhibit reuptake of transmitters = potentiate effects	Dry mouth, blurry vision, constipation, sedation
Amphetamine	Indirectly acting sympathomimetic (postganglionic)	Dilate pupils	Increase amount of Nor at synapse by releasing more, blocking uptake and inhibiting metabolism	
Aspirin	Irreversible COX-1 Inhibitor	Analgesic, antipyretic	Stops platelet count getting out of control	Stomach ulcers
Atenolol	B ₁ adrenoceptor blocker	Antihypertensive	Stop contraction of heart SM = lower cardiac output and contractility	Hypotension
Atropine	Competitive muscarinic antagonist	Pupil dilation	Competes with ACh for access to mAChR = inhibit ACh	
Barbiturates	Positive GABA modulation	Relax	Enhance GABA-A receptor Cl ⁻ conductance	
Beclomethasone	Longest-acting synthetic glucocorticoid	Anti-inflammatory	Binds to glucocorticoid response DNA elements to modify transcription and protein synthesis to inhibit leukocyte infiltration	Poor absorption = topical