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Neuropathic pain

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TO THE EDITOR: Dr. Mark Stillman's article about neuropathic pain in the August 2006 issue (*Cleve Clin J Med* 2006; 73:726–739) was excellent. However, when discussing drug treatment, he did not mention the cost of drugs. Although pregabalin (Lyrica) is quicker in action than gabapentin (Neurontin), it seems to be equal in effectiveness, and it costs considerably more.

Costco.com lists a month's supply of gabapentin 40 mg three times a day for $32, while Drugstore.com lists pregabalin 75 mg three times a day for $158. Amitriptyline 25 mg daily costs $11 for a month's supply.

Since many patients have either no drug benefit or pay a premium when brand names (eg, Lyrica) are used, it is appropriate for physicians to know the costs of medications and to be able to advise patients appropriately.

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