



# NARCOLEPSY

## A Clinician's Pocket Guide

Diagnosis, Functional Burden, Cardiovascular Risk, and Individualized Pharmacotherapy

### CLINICAL RECOGNITION & DISEASE BURDEN

#### Core Symptoms<sup>1</sup>



Excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS)



Sleep attacks/involuntary naps



Hypnagogic/hypnopompic hallucinations



Disrupted nighttime sleep



Cataplexy



Sleep paralysis



Cognitive dysfunction/"brain fog"

#### Frequently Associated Conditions<sup>1</sup>

- ✓ Depression/Anxiety
- ✓ ADHD
- ✓ Obesity/Weight Gain
- ✓ Migraine/Headaches
- ✓ Other Sleep Disorders (OSA, Parasomnias, Restless Legs Syndrome)

#### FUNCTIONAL IMPACT CHECKLIST

- Driving Impairment
- Social Withdrawal
- Work/School Dysfunction
- Falls/Injury from Cataplexy
- Cognitive Impairment
- Reduced QoL
- Emotional Distress
- Fatigue

#### AHA Expert Consensus Recommendations<sup>9</sup>

- 1 Recognize** the risk of hypertension and CV/ cardiometabolic disease in patients with NT
- 2 Reduce** the risk of hypertension and CV/ cardiometabolic disease in patients with NT
- 3 Reduce** sodium intake to lower the risk of HTN and CVD in patients with NT

#### Monitoring Checklist

- Blood pressure
- Weight/BMI
- Waist circumference
- Lipids
- HbA1c/glucose
- OSA screening
- Sodium intake
- DASH/heart-healthy diet
- Exercise
- Smoking cessation
- Sleep optimization
- Renal function, when clinically indicated

#### Sodium Pearls<sup>10,11</sup>

##### DAILY SODIUM EXPOSURE

- ◆ WHO recommendation: ≤2,000 mg/day
- ◆ AHA ideal target: ~1,500 mg/day

##### OXYBATES, SODIUM EXPOSURE

Sodium oxybate - 6 g = **1092** mg sodium

Sodium oxybate - 9 g = **1638** mg sodium

Low sodium oxybate - 9 g = **131** mg sodium

#### Treatment Strategy by Outcomes<sup>12</sup>

TARGETS	EDS	CATAPLEXY	EDS + CATAPLEXY
	LXB	LXB	LXB
	Sodium oxybate (& ER)	Sodium oxybate (& ER)	Sodium oxybate (& ER)
	Solriamfetol	Pitolisant	Pitolisant
AGENT(S)	Modafinil/ Armodafinil	Tricyclic antidepressant	Atomoxetine
	Methylphenidate	SSRI	
	Pitolisant	Atomoxetine	
	Dextroamphetamine	Venlafaxine	
	Atomoxetine		

FDA-approved indication  
 Off-label

#### Cardiovascular Considerations<sup>13-16</sup>

Agent	Warning
<b>Modafinil/ Armodafinil</b>	Increased monitoring for CVD
<b>Methylphenidate</b>	Serious CV events and increased monitoring for BP and HR
<b>Dextroamphetamine</b>	Potential for increased risk of cardiac events and death if history of MI or angina
<b>Solriamfetol</b>	Increased monitoring for BP and HR
<b>Sodium oxybate</b>	High sodium content; increased monitoring in patients with HF, HTN, or impaired renal function
<b>Pitolisant</b>	Prolongs QT interval, increases risk of arrhythmia; avoid in patients with hepatic or renal impairment



# DIAGNOSTIC WORKUP AND TESTING

## Evaluation Checklist<sup>2,3</sup>

- Review of symptoms (ROS)
- Excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS)  $\geq 3$  months
- Presence of cataplexy, sleep paralysis, hallucinations, and disrupted nighttime sleep
- Validated assessment tools, eg, Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS), Functional Outcomes of Sleep Questionnaire (FOSQ-10), Narcolepsy Severity Scale (NSS)
- Assess comorbid medical or psychiatric conditions
- Screen for other sleep disorders, including OSA
- List current medications, drug use, and associated side effects

## Pretest Preparation (1 to 3 weeks prior)<sup>2,3</sup>

- Actigraphy or sleep log for 1 to 2 weeks
- Ensure adequate nighttime sleep prior to testing
- Discontinue medications or drugs that increase alertness or suppress REM, eg, antidepressants, stimulant drugs (amphetamines, cocaine), caffeine

## Overnight PSG



- Evaluates sleep quantity and quality
- Rules out other disorders
- Measures sleep-onset REM-sleep periods ( $\leq 15$  mins is a clinical marker for NT)

## Daytime MSLT



- Measures mean sleep latency and SOREMPs
- Performed the day after PSG
- 5 scheduled naps every 2 hours; patient allowed to sleep for  $\geq 20$  mins



Limitations on testing include poor reproducibility, high false-negative rates, confounding results from REM-suppressing medications, altered interpretation from insufficient sleep or other comorbidities



# NARCOLEPSY CRITERIA

## ICSD-3-TR<sup>2,3</sup>

### Narcolepsy Type 1 (NT1)

In addition to EDS, the presence of at least one of the following:

- Cataplexy and either:
  - Mean sleep latency of  $\leq 8$  minutes and two or more SOREMPs on MSLT
  - A SOREMP ( $\leq 15$  minutes of sleep onset) on nocturnal PSG
- CSF hypocretin  $\leq 110$  pg/mL or  $< 1/3$  of mean values obtained in normal subjects with the same standardized assay

### Narcolepsy Type 2 (NT2)

In addition to EDS and criteria "a" above, the following must be met:

- Absence of cataplexy
- CSF hypocretin not measured or  $> 110$  pg/mL or  $> 1/3$  of mean control values
- Hypersomnolence and/or MSLT findings not better explained by other causes

## NT1 vs NT2 vs IH<sup>4,5</sup>

Features	NT1	NT2	IH
EDS	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cataplexy	Yes	No	No
Orexin deficiency	Yes	No	No
Nocturnal sleep	Fragmented	Long sleep times may be present; few awakenings	Long sleep times present; few awakenings
Naps	Short and restorative	Variable	Long but unrefreshing
Sleep inertia	Less common	Variable	Common
MSLT	$\leq 8$ mins	$\leq 8$ mins	$\leq 8$ mins
SOREMPs	$\geq 2$	$\geq 2$	$\leq 1$
REM	Greatly associated	Less associated	Not associated



# FUNCTIONAL AND SLEEPINESS SCALES

## Epworth Sleepiness Scale<sup>6</sup>



How likely are you to doze off or sleep in the following situations?

Situation	Chance of dozing or sleeping			
	0	1	2	3
Sitting and reading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watching TV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sitting inactive in a public place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As a passenger in a car for an hour without a break	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lying down to rest when circumstances are permitted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sitting and talking to someone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sitting quietly after lunch without alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In a car, while stopped for a few minutes in traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Total Score (0-24):</b>				

### Score Interpretation:

Scores of **11-24** represent increasing levels of EDS

## Narcolepsy Severity Scale<sup>7</sup>



Evaluates impact of narcolepsy symptoms over the past month.

- EDS
- Sleep paralysis
- Cataplexy
- Hallucinations
- Disrupted nighttime sleep

Higher score = greater severity

## Functional Outcomes of Sleep Questionnaire (FOSQ-10)<sup>8</sup>



Assesses the impact of sleepiness on:

 Productivity	 Vigilance	 Social Outcomes	 Activity Level	 Intimacy/Sexual Relationships
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Lower score = greater functional impairment



For Validated Assessment Tools, References, and Links to Additional Resources, Visit Our Narcolepsy Clinical Resource Center at [ExchangeCME.com/NarcolepsyCRC](https://ExchangeCME.com/NarcolepsyCRC)