

# How I Choose an AUD Pharmacotherapy

Step	Clinical Considerations	Patient Response	Medications							References
			Naltrexone	Acamprosate	Topiramate	Gabapentin	Ondansetron	Baclofen	Varenicline	
			First Line		Second Line		Other			
One	Why drink <b>Reward</b> - (Life more exciting, enjoyable, more fun, better times, more confident and relaxed) or is it a Combination of Reward and Relief?		█							1
	<b>Relief</b> - (To reduce irritability, to help forget problems at work or home, troubles with friends & family, poor sleep)			█	█	█		█	█	
Two	Early Onset AUD						█			2
	AUD established by age 25						█			3
	May have Blackouts and/or Anti-Social Personality Traits						█			4
	4x more likely to be arrested for violent crime or have an Opiate Use Disorder.						█			5
Three	Topiramate?			█						6
	May have PTSD			█						7
	May have History of significant use of Cocaine or Meth			█						8
	May have Anger problem			█						9
	May have Headaches			█						10
	May have Borderline Personality Disorder			█						11
Four	May have Obesity/Eating Disorder							█		
	Goal of reduced intake or abstinence		█							12
	Goal of abstinence only		█	█						12
	Use if Naltrexone and/or Acamprosate unsuccessful or contraindicated			█	█					12
	History of Seizures			█	█					13
	Anxiety and/or sleep problems				█			█		14
	Chronic or Neuropathic Pain				█			█		15
	Gambling Disorder		█		█					16
	Smoking (if heavy use like 2ppd or more use Varenicline)		█		█				█	17
	Acute/Chronic Liver Failure							█		18
Patient wants to "detox" at home in spite of being advised of risks of acute withdrawal.					█				12	
If patient on opiates including Suboxone or Methadone (do not use Naltrexone).			█	█	█		█	█	12	
Notes: Remember, choose the med most likely to work and trial it. If the first choice med is not helping to reduce symptoms or Etoh use, despite dose adjustments as appropriate, then discontinue and trial the second most likely med to work. Don't stop trialing until success occurs. Counselling should also be pursued along with pharmacotherapy in keeping with patient's wishes. <u>BCCSU AUD Guideline compatible info outlined in red borders.</u>										
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