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Emerging Trends in Pain Medication Management: Back to the Future

A focus on ketamine

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Clinical Significance

- Ketamine is a non-competitive NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate) receptor antagonist that reduces the neurotransmission of the excitatory neurotransmitter glutamate.
- Ketamine has a unique mechanism of action providing opioid sparing effects as well as analgesic effects.
- Ketamine is a non-opioid agent that has been shown to reduce chronic pain and may prevent the development of pain.
- Adverse psychological effects can be mitigated by dose and be managed with pre-treatment or co-administration of other medications.

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