# Laboratory Animal Analgesic Ladder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pain intensity</th>
<th>Analgesic approach</th>
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| Mild           | • Single-agent therapy acceptable  
                 • NSAIDs, Local anesthetic infiltration or Opioid agonist-antagonists (e.g. butorphanol) |
| Moderate       | • Consider multimodal analgesia  
                 • NSAIDs + Adjuncts such as Local anesthetics, Partial opioid agonists (buprenorphine), Tramadol, Alpha-2 agonists (dexametadetomidine), NMDA antagonists (ketamine) |
| Severe         | • Multimodal analgesia recommended  
                 • Advanced analgesic techniques recommended – epidural administration of local anesthetics +/- opioids & constant rate infusions  
                 • Full mu-opioid agonists (e.g. morphine, hydromorphone, fentanyl) + Adjuncts such as NSAIDs, Local anesthetics, Alpha-2 agonists, Antiepileptic drugs, NMDA antagonists |

*Adapted from the World Health Organization’s Pain Relief Ladder

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