Laboratory Animal Analgesic Ladder

Pain intensity	Analgesic approach
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 (dexmetdetomidine), 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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