

These occur, to some extent, in most arachnoiditis patients, largely because of the potent drugs involved, which are often in combinations.

Opiates alone can cause a wide variety of side effects, but when taken in combination with adjuncts such as antidepressants, anticonvulsants or muscle relaxants, there may be a cumulative effect.

The most common side effects are dry mouth, constipation, drowsiness, nausea, dizziness, urinary retention and blurred vision. Some drugs, such as opiates, NSAIDs and certain antidepressants may cause fluid retention, and thus weight gain.

There are a few patients who develop liver and kidney problems, probably due to adverse effects from medication.