

Treatment Algorithm 2026 - Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia

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The Canine Chiari and syringomyelia treatment algorithm is supported by many YouTube videos; see list at the end.

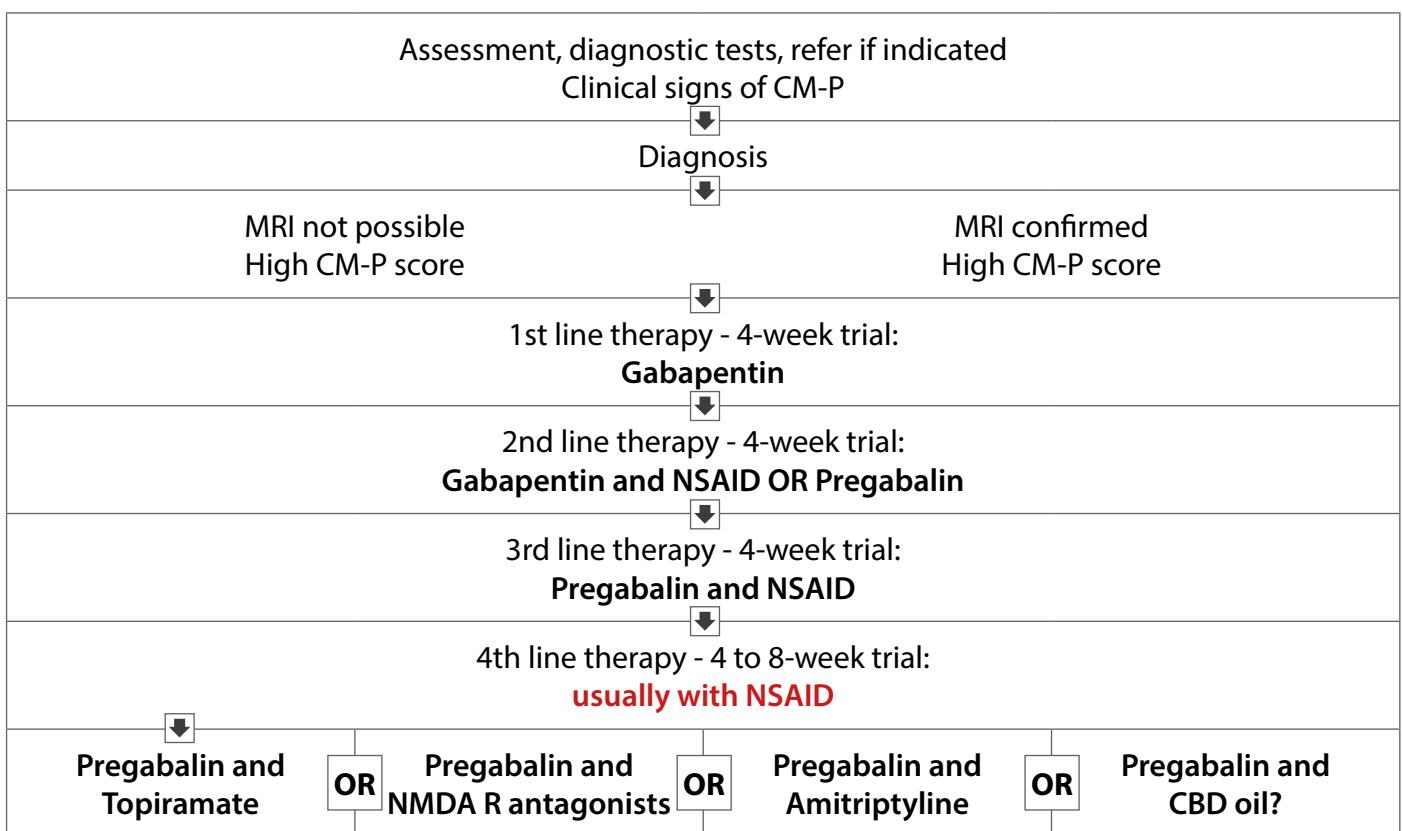
The algorithm is also supported by Chiari-Check, a diagnostic tool which generates a Chiari-pain and SM-score to help determine if Canine Chiari or syringomyelia is likely before an MRI scan (or if MRI not possible) and ultimately to monitor clinical signs. <https://caninechiari.com>

The Canine Chiari and syringomyelia treatment algorithm is intended for veterinary surgeons and drugs should only be prescribed under the care of a veterinary surgeon.

Please refer to your national guidelines - gabapentinoid drugs and CBD oil are controlled in many countries and all the drugs indicated in the algorithm are being used off label and care givers should be advised accordingly.

Medical Treatment Algorithm 2026 - Chiari-Pain

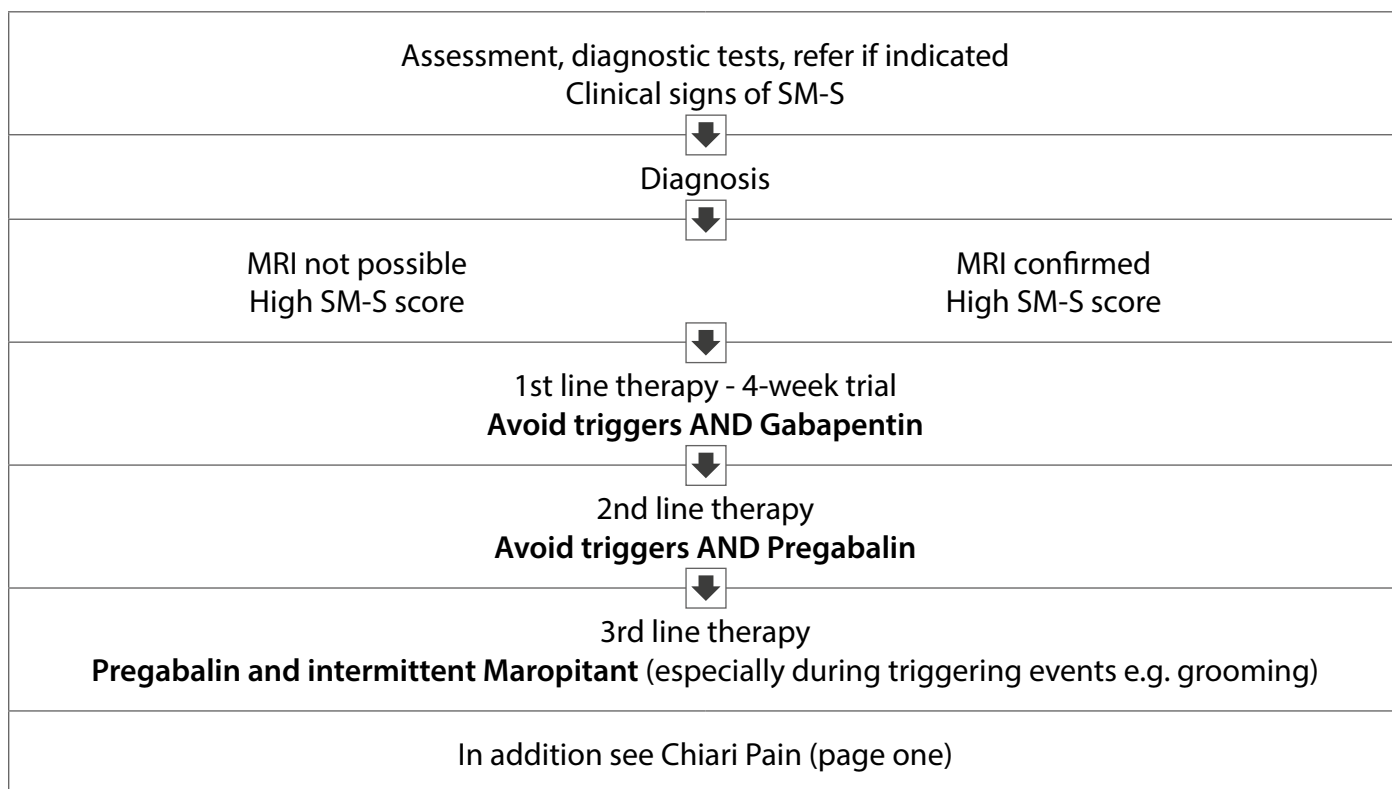
Assumes poor / inadequate response to NSAID or other licensed medication



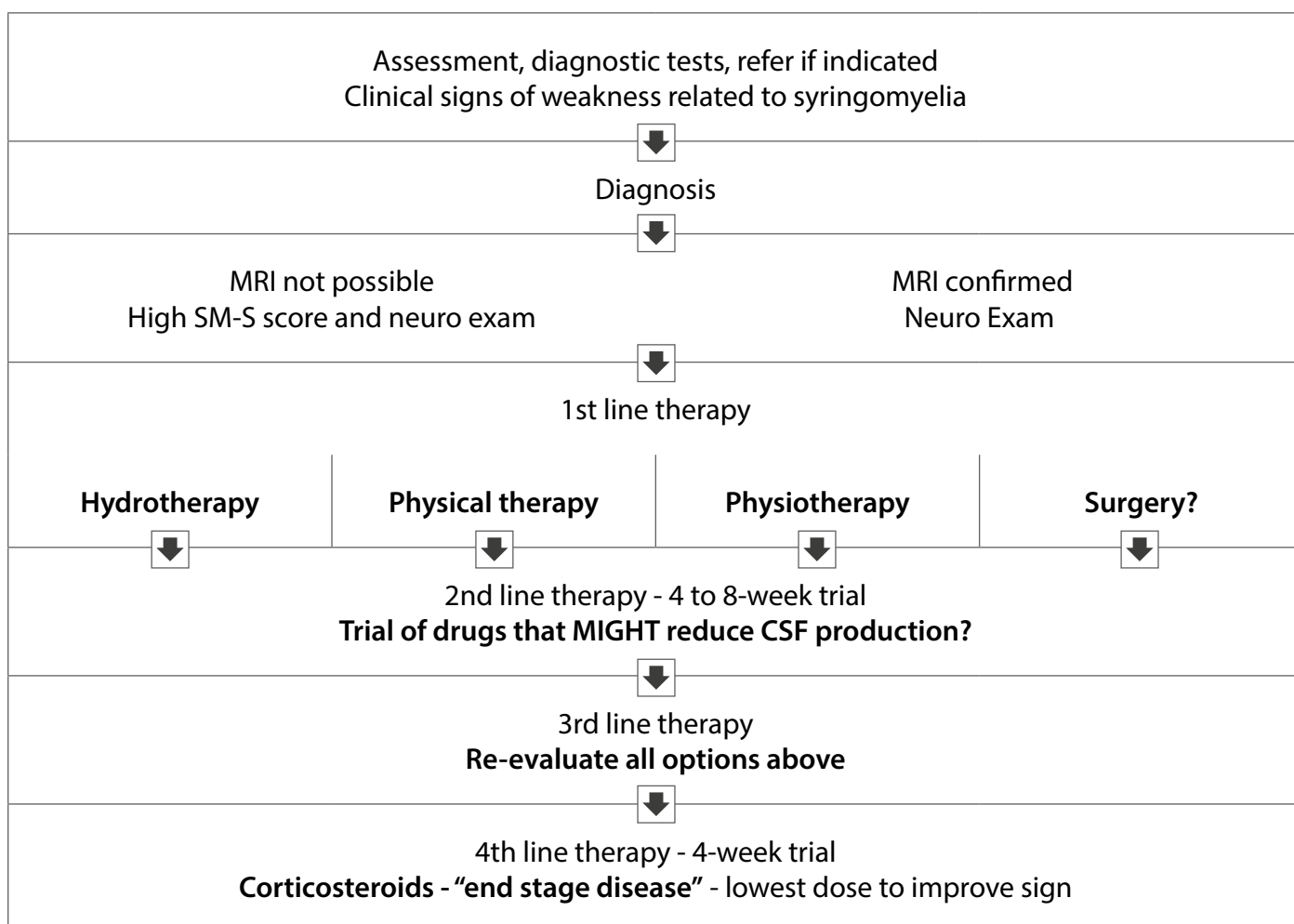
Top up Therapy / Bad Pain Days

First line	Second line (not cats)	Third line
Add a NSAID (if not already receiving)	Add paracetamol (acetaminophen) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-20mg/kg up to every 8 hours • Long term not advised if giving more than 5 days reduce dose e.g. 10mg/kg every 12 hours 	Ketamine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcutaneous injection (one off or monthly) • Intravenous infusion (one off or monthly)

Treatment Algorithm 2026 - Phantom Scratching (SM-S)



Treatment Algorithm 2026 - Syringomyelia Weakness



When is Surgery Indicated? - Website and Video

See supporting video: search for "Surgical Interventions for Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia" (NeuroVet)

- CM Pain unresolved with medical management
 - add an NSAID if not already receiving
- MRI suggests progressive disease is likely
 - and where surgical management has fair to good prognosis to reverse that progression (i.e. collapse the syrinx)
- Weakness (forelimb and spinal)
 - and where surgical solution that has a fair to good prognosis to improve or stabilise situation

Trial of drugs that MIGHT affect CSF production indicated?

See explanatory video: search for "Drugs modulating Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Production" (NeuroVet)

- Hydrocephalus
 - Surgery not option or failed
- Poorly controlled CM pain
- Weakness
 - Surgery not option or failed

Based on available evidence

- First line - Topiramate
 - May be limited by sedation in neurologically compromised animal
- Second line - Omeprazole
 - High Dose?
 - Preferred option if regurgitation also issue

Cervicothoracic torticollis / scoliosis

- Syrinx in C1-C3 spinal cord segments
- Information from general proprioceptive afferents (neuromuscular spindles) disrupted
- Results in abnormal function of epaxial muscles maintaining normal orientation of the head and neck
- Often "improves" over years despite lack of improvement in SM due to central vestibular compensation

Supporting Videos (You Tube Links & Search Terms)

NeuroVet Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia Playlist	
Subject	Click or search for
Playlist (All Videos)	Playlist Canine Chiari Malformation - From the Expert
Canine Chiari Malformation	Canine Chiari Malformation - From the Expert
Syringomyelia –the filling mechanism	Syringomyelia from the expert - the filling mechanism
Clinical Signs of Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia	Clinical Signs of Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia - from the expert
MRI interpretation of Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia	MRI interpretation of Canine Chiari and syringomyelia - from the expert
Drugs that modulate CSF production	Drugs modulating Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Production
Surgical interventions for Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia	Surgical Interventions for Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia
Maropitant for Phantom Scratching	Maropitant for Phantom Scratching in Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia
Medical management and treatment algorithm	Treatment of Canine Chiari and Syringomyelia

NeuroVet Neuropathic Pain Playlist	
Subject	Click or search for
Playlist (All Videos)	Playlist Neuropathic pain - syndromes and management
Neurobiology of pain and neuropathic pain	Neuropathic pain - explaining the mechanisms
Gabapentin	Gabapentin - 5 things you should know (in dogs and cats)
Pregabalin	Pregabalin - 5 things you should know about prescribing in dogs and cats
Palmitoylethanolamide (PEA)	Palmitoylethanolamide (PEA) for neuropathic pain in dogs and cats
Cannabinol (CBD oil)	Cannabinol (CBD oil) and neuropathic pain in animals
Emotional Health, exercise, physiotherapy, acupuncture and sleep	Emotional health, exercise, physiotherapy, acupuncture and sleep for painful dogs and cats
NSAIDs, Paracetamol and corticosteroids	Neuropathic Pain - NSAIDs, Paracetamol and corticosteroids
NMDA receptor antagonists (ketamine, amantadine, memantine)	Unlocking Relief: NMDA Receptor Antagonists for Neuropathic Pain in Dogs and Cat
Topiramate	Exploring Topiramate for Neuropathic Pain Relief (and other neurological syndromes)
Amitriptyline	Amitriptyline in Managing Neuropathic Pain Syndromes in Dogs and Cats