Table 1 – Pharmacological treatment options for management of orthostatic hypotension (source- British national formulary(10))

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| Medication | Mechanism of Action | Dose range | Contra-indications | Side effects |
| Atomoxetine | A selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor, increasing norepinephrine available in the synapse. | 18mg used in trials (OD)  Not licensed for OH in UK | Phaeochromocytoma; severe cardiovascular disease; severe cerebrovascular disease | Anxiety; appetite decreased; asthenia; chills (in adults); constipation; depression; dizziness; drowsiness; gastrointestinal discomfort; headaches; hyperhidrosis; menstrual cycle irregularities; altered mood); nausea); prostatitis; sexual dysfunction; thirst; vomiting; weight loss |
| Caffeine | Wide ranging and poorly understood mechanism – but relevantly it stimulates catecholamine release causing vasoconstriction (when used irregularly) | 100mg used (OD) | No absolute CI, caution advised with history of- Severe anxiety; cardiovascular disease or symptomatic arrhythmias; peptic ulcer disease or gastroesophageal reflux disease | Restlessness and shakiness, insomnia, headaches, dizziness, tachycardia, dehydration, anxiety |
| Droxidopa (L-DOPS) | A norepinephrine precursor which is metabolised in the brain, allowing the norepinephrine to act on alpha-adrenergic receptors causing vasoconstriction and on beta-adrenergic receptors to stimulate heart contraction and dilate arteries. | 100-600mg (TDS)  Not available in UK | Neuroleptic malignant syndrome, supine hypertension,  coronary artery disease,  arrhythmia,  chronic heart failure | nausea, headache, increased blood pressure, hallucination, and anorexia |
| Ergometrine | An ergot alkaloid, which causes arterial vasoconstriction by stimulation of alpha-adrenergic and serotonin receptors as well as inhibiting the release of endothelial-derived relaxation factor. | 1mg used in trials (OD)  Licensed for 250-500μg in post-partum haemorrhage | Eclampsia; first stage of labour; induction of labour; second stage of labour; sepsis; severe cardiac disease; severe hypertension; vascular disease | Abdominal pain; arrhythmias; chest pain; coronary vasospasm; dizziness; dyspnoea; headache; hypertension; myocardial infarction; nausea; palpitations; pulmonary oedema; rash; tinnitus; vasoconstriction; vomiting |
| Midodrine | A prodrug which is converted into desglymidodrine, which works on alpha1-adrenergic receptors to increase vascular tone | 2.5-10mg TDS | Aortic aneurysm; blood vessel spasm; bradycardia; cardiac conduction disturbances; cerebrovascular occlusion; congestive heart failure; hypertension; hyperthyroidism; myocardial infarction; narrow-angle glaucoma; proliferative diabetic retinopathy; serious prostate disorder; urinary retention | Chills; flushing; gastrointestinal discomfort; headache; nausea; paraesthesia; piloerection; scalp pruritus; supine hypertension (dose-dependent); urinary disorders |
| Pyridostigmine | An anticholinesterase which reduces the breakdown of acetylcholine in the synaptic cleft. | 60mg used in trials (30mg BD/60mg OD)  30-120mg licensed for multiple sclerosis | Intestinal obstruction; urinary obstruction | Abdominal cramps; diarrhoea; excessive tearing; hypersalivation; nausea; vomiting |
| Yohimbine | Pre-synaptic alpha2-adrenergic receptor antagonist. Which may lead to increased norepinephrine release | 2 - 5.4mg (TDS) used in clinical trials. | Pregnancy, hypersensitivity, children, panic disorder | Anxiety; irritability; headache; sweating; nausea; tachycardia; priapism; worsening of panic attacks; vomiting; dizziness; nervousness; restlessness; reduced urination; hypertension; tremors; skin flushing |