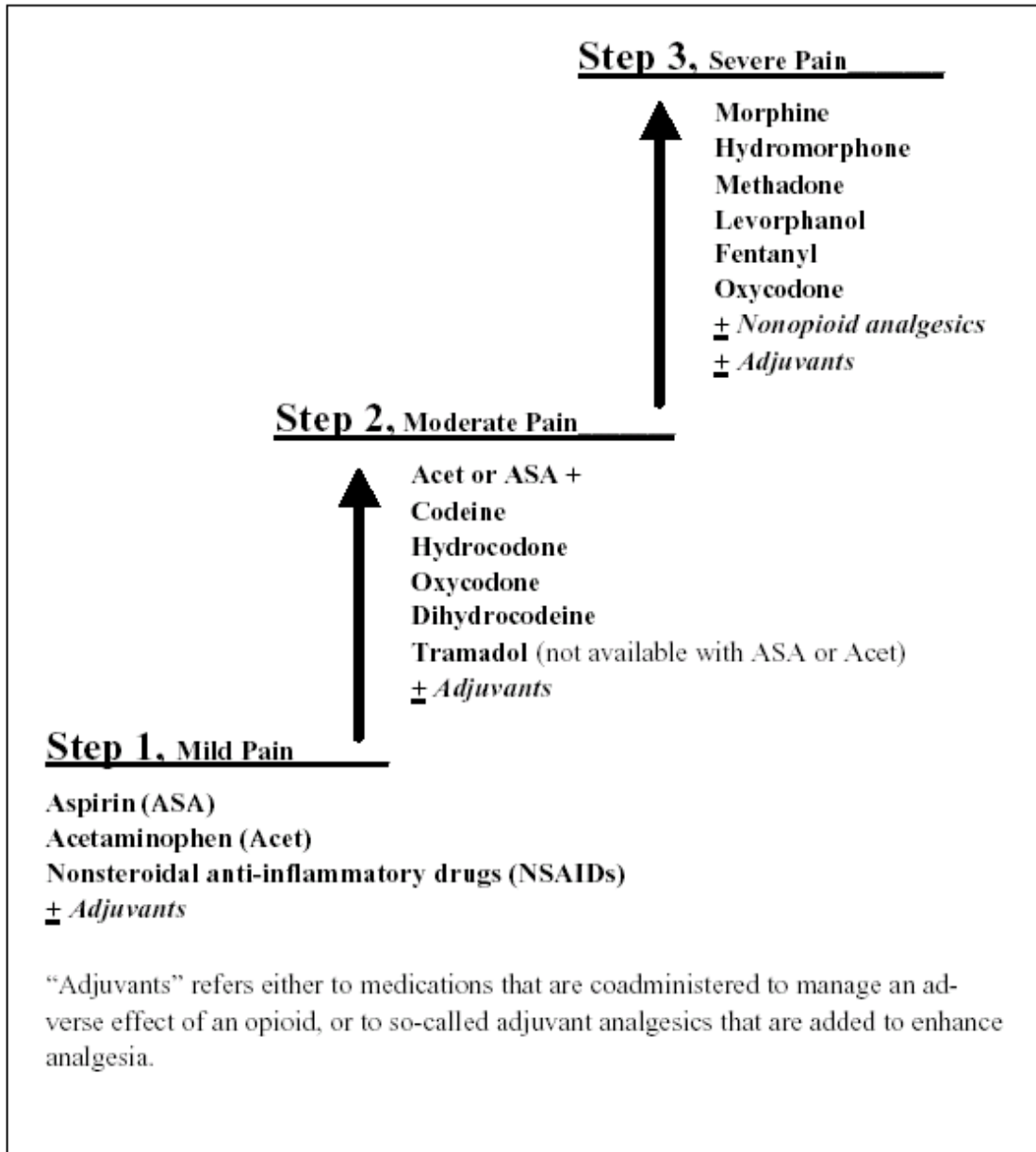


Pharmacologic approaches to pain management

WHO 3-Step Ladder



In 1986, the World Health Organization (WHO) developed a 3-step conceptual model to guide the management of cancer pain. It provides a simple, well-tested approach for the rational selection, administration, and titration of a myriad of analgesics. Today, there is worldwide consensus favoring its use for the medical management of all pain associated with serious illness.