Potentially relevant studies identified and screened (n=91)

Studies excluded (n=55):
General reviews of the drugs, general reviews of the disease area, studies of other drugs in the treatment of DPNP, studies of other disease areas, one study concerned with the importance on the Likert scale in DPNP and PHN, non placebo-controlled studies

Studies potentially eligible after screening (n=36)

Studies excluded (n=19) due to duplicates from different database searches

Studies reviewed in full (n=17)

Studies excluded (n=6).
Gabapentin (n=2).
Gorson (1999): brief report of cross-over trial, apparently inadequate washout
Amitriptyline (n=4).
Mendel (1986) studied combination therapy
Max (1987 and 1992): used active placebo
Vrethem (1997) n=25: no sample size calculation

Studies eligible for inclusion in the meta-analysis (n=11):
Duloxetine = 3
Pregabalin = 6
Gabapentin = 2
Amitriptyline = 0