

Medications Approved for the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease in the USA



NOVEMBER 2008

Generic Name	Trade Name	Mode of Action	Common Side Effects*
Carbidopa-levodopa	<i>Sinemet</i>	DOPA decarboxylase inhibitor/DA precursor	Nausea, vomiting, dizziness, low blood pressure, anxiety, dyskinesia, confusion, hallucinations.
Carbidopa-levodopa (controlled release)	<i>Sinemet CR</i>	DOPA decarboxylase inhibitor/DA precursor	Nausea, vomiting, dizziness, low blood pressure, anxiety, dyskinesia, confusion, hallucinations
Carbidopa-levodopa (orally disintegrating tablet)	<i>Parcopa</i>	DOPA decarboxylase inhibitor/DA precursor	Nausea, vomiting, dizziness, low blood pressure, anxiety, dyskinesia, confusion, hallucinations.
Carbidopa-levodopa-entacapone	<i>Stalevo</i>	DOPA decarboxylase inhibitor/DA precursor/COMT inhibitor	Darkened saliva and/or body fluids, diarrhea, fatigue, dizziness, abdominal pain, dyskinesia, pain, constipation, hallucinations
Bromocriptine	<i>Parlodel</i>	DA agonist	Nausea, dizziness, low blood pressure, swelling of ankles, dyskinesia, hallucinations, confusion, somnolence, sleep attacks.
Pramipexole	<i>Mirapex</i>	DA agonist	Nausea, dizziness, low blood pressure, swelling of ankles, dyskinesia, hallucinations, confusion, somnolence, sleep attacks, compulsive behavior.
Ropinirole	<i>Requip</i>	DA agonist	Nausea, dizziness, low blood pressure, swelling of ankles, dyskinesia, hallucinations, confusion, somnolence, sleep attacks.
Ropinirole- (extended release tablets)	<i>Requip XL</i>	DA agonist	Nausea, dizziness, low blood pressure, swelling of ankles, dyskinesia, hallucinations, confusion, somnolence, sleep attacks.
Apomorphine	<i>Apokyn</i>	DA agonist	Nausea, vomiting, dizziness, low blood, pressure, sedation, yawning, hallucinations, dyskinesia, runny nose, swelling of extremities, injection site reactions.
Rotigotine** (transdermal patch)	<i>Neupro</i>	DA agonist	Skin reactions at the patch site, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, insomnia, sleep attacks, hallucinations, low blood pressure.

Generic Name	Trade Name	Mode of Action	Common Side Effects*
Selegiline	<i>Eldepryl</i>	MAO-B inhibitor; inhibits dopamine metabolism	Insomnia, gastrointestinal upset, dyskinesia, hallucinations, confusion.
Selegiline (orally disintegrating tablet)	<i>Zelapar</i>	MAO-B inhibitor; inhibits dopamine metabolism	Dizziness, nausea, pain, headache, insomnia, runny nose, dyskinesia.
Rasagiline	<i>Azilect</i>	MAO-B inhibitor; inhibits dopamine metabolism	Gastrointestinal upset, headache, dyskinesia.
Tolcapone	<i>Tasmar</i>	COMT inhibitor; decreases levodopa metabolism	Dyskinesia, nausea, dizziness, diarrhea, hallucinations, urine discoloration, elevated liver function enzymes.
Entacapone	<i>Comtan</i>	COMT inhibitor; decreases levodopa metabolism	Same as Tasmar except it does not commonly elevate liver function enzymes.
Amantadine	<i>Symmetrel</i>	DA re-uptake inhibitor; stimulates DA receptors; anticholinergic; NMDA antagonist	Hallucinations, leg swelling, dizziness, mottled leg skin (livedo reticularis), insomnia, confusion, dry mouth and eyes, constipation.
Trihexyphenidyl	<i>Artane</i>	Anticholinergic	Dry mouth & eyes, constipation, urinary retention, memory impairment, confusion, depression, hallucinations.
Benzotropine	<i>Cogentin</i>	Anticholinergic	Same as Artane

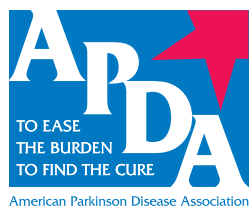
COMT = Catechol-o-methyltransferase MAO = Mono amino oxidase
 DA = Dopamine NMDA = N-methyl-D-aspartate
 DOPA = Levodopa

* The most common side effects are listed. Additional side effects, if any, should be discussed with your health care provider.
 **Temporarily withdrawn from the US market

This material is intended to provide the reader with information. It should not be used for treatment purposes, but rather as a source for discussion with the patient's own physician.

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