

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

Medications used to treat the motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease as of May 2023

| Mechanism of action | Generic name | Trade name® | Potential side effects* |
|--|--|-------------|---|
| DOPA Decarboxylase inhibitor/DA precursor | Carbidopa/Levodopa | Sinemet | Nausea, dizziness, orthostatic hypotension, anxiety, dyskinesia, confusion, hallucinations, somnolence, peripheral neuropathy (acute and subacute forms more common with Duopa) |
| | Carbidopa/Levodopa ER (extended release) | | |
| | Carbidopa/Levodopa (orally disintegrating) | Parcopa | |
| | Carbidopa/Levodopa (extended release capsules) | Rytary | |
| | Carbidopa/Levodopa (enteral suspension) | Duopa | |
| | Levodopa inhalation powder | Inbrija | |
| | Scored Carbidopa/Levodopa tablet | Dhivy | |
| COMT inhibitor, inhibits breakdown of levodopa | Entacapone | Comtan | Same as carbidopa/levodopa. In addition: diarrhea, discoloration of body fluids Tasmar can cause liver failure and requires monitoring of liver function |
| | Tolcapone | Tasmar | |
| | Opicapone | Ongentys | |
| DOPA decarboxylase inhibitor/DA precursor/COMT Inhibitor | Carbidopa/Levodopa/Entacapone | Stalevo | Same as carbidopa/levodopa and COMT inhibitor |
| DA agonist | Pramipexole | Mirapex | Nausea, dizziness, orthostatic hypotension, swelling of ankles, dyskinesia, hallucinations, confusion, somnolence, sleep attacks, impulse control disorders Neupro can lead to a skin reaction at the patch site |
| | Pramipexole (extended release) | Mirapex ER | |
| | Ropinirole | Requip | |
| | Ropinirole (extended release) | Requip XL | |
| | Apomorphine (injection) | Apokyn | |
| | Apomorphine (sublingual film) | Kynmobi | |
| | Rotigotine (transdermal patch) | Neupro | |

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|---|------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| MAO-B inhibitor, inhibits breakdown of dopamine | Selegiline | | Selegiline can cause insomnia |
| | Selegiline (orally disintegrating) | Zelapar | Dizziness, nausea, gastrointestinal upset, dyskinesia, hallucinations, confusion, headache |
| | Rasagiline | Azilect | |
| | Safinamide | Xadago | Note possible drug interactions between MAO-B inhibitors and other medications Safinamide exerts its effects through other mechanisms of action as well |
| Adenosine 2A inhibitor | Istradefylline | Nourianz | Dyskinesias, dizziness, constipation, nausea, hallucinations and insomnia |
| Mixed mechanisms, including NMDA antagonism | Amantadine | | Hallucinations, leg swelling, dizziness, mottled skin (livedo reticularis), confusion, dry mouth and eyes, constipation, dizziness, orthostatic hypotension, somnolence Dose needs to be adjusted for kidney dysfunction |
| | Amantadine (extended release) | Gocovri | |
| | Amantadine (extended release) | Osmolex ER | |
| Anticholinergic | Trihexyphenidyl | | Dry mouth and eyes, constipation, urinary retention, memory impairment, confusion, depression, hallucinations |
| | Benzotropine | Cogentin | |

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

Medications used to treat the non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease as of May 2023**

| Symptom treated | Mechanism of action | Generic name | Trade name® | Potential side effects* |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| Parkinson's disease psychosis | Inverse serotonin agonist | Pimavanserin | Nuplazid | Swelling of legs or arms, nausea, confusion, constipation QT interval prolongation (abnormal heart rhythm), increased risk of death in elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis |
| Neurogenic orthostatic hypotension | Norepinephrine precursor | Droxidopa | Northera | Headache, dizziness, nausea, high blood pressure (especially when lying down) |
| Parkinson's disease dementia | Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor | Rivastigmine | Exelon | Stomach upset, nausea, loss of appetite |

COMT = catechol-o-methyltransferase

DA = dopamine

DOPA = dopamine

MAO-B = monoamine oxidase B

NMDA = n-methyl-d-aspartate

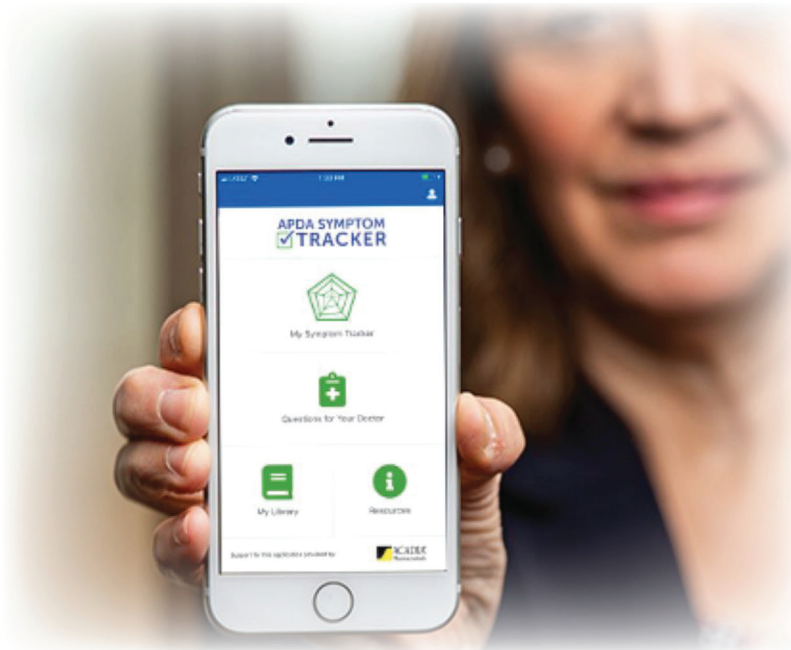
* Additional side effects may occur. Please discuss with your health care provider.

** The medications listed carry a specific indication for use in Parkinson's disease. Many other medications are used off-label for treatment of non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

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This material is intended to provide you with information. It should not be used for treatment purposes, but rather as a source for discussion with your own physician. Work with your physician to determine which medications are best for you, and know the risks and benefits of each.

AMERICAN PARKINSON DISEASE ASSOCIATION

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© Revised and Updated by Rebecca Gilbert, MD, PhD, APDA Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer – May 2023