

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 March 2025

| Mechanism of action | Generic name | Trade name® | Potential side effects ^a |
|--|--|-------------------|---|
| 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 (extended-release capsules) | Crexont Rytary | |
| | Foscarbidopa-foslevodopa (subcutaneous infusion) | Vyalev™ | |
| | 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 subcutaneous infusion | Onapgo™ | |
| | Rotigotine (transdermal patch) | Neupro | |

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| Mechanism of action | Generic name | Trade name® | Potential side effects ^a |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| MAO-B inhibitor, inhibits breakdown of dopamine | Selegiline | | Selegiline can cause insomnia |
| | Selegiline (orally disintegrating) | Zelapar | Dizziness, nausea, gastrointestinal upset, dyskinesia, hallucinations, confusion, headache |
| | Selegiline (transdermal patch) | Emsam | Note possible drug interactions between MAO-B inhibitors and other medications |
| | Rasagiline | Azilect | |
| | Safinamide | Xadago | Safinamide exerts its effects through other mechanisms of action as well |
| Adenosine 2A inhibitor | Istradefylline | Nourianz | Dyskinesia, 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 |
| | Amantadine (extended release) | Gocovri | Dose needs to be adjusted for kidney dysfunction |
| Anticholinergic | Trihexyphenidyl | | Dry mouth and eyes, constipation, urinary retention, memory impairment, confusion, depression, hallucinations |

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 March 2025^b

| Symptom treated | Mechanism of action | Generic name | Trade name® | Potential side effects ^a |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| 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

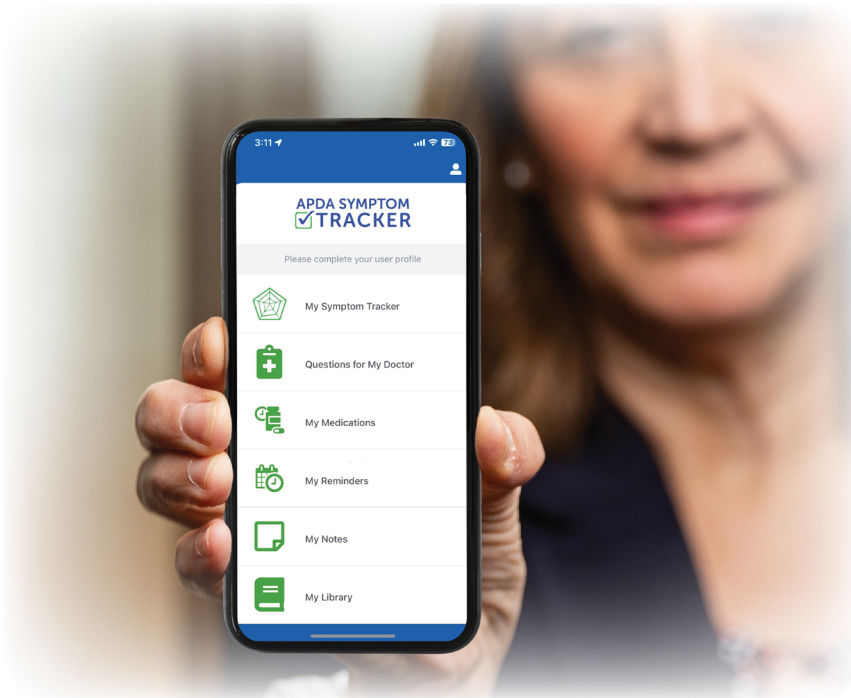
^aAdditional side effects may occur. Please discuss with your healthcare provider.

^bThe 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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