

## Medications for Motor Symptoms

*Table 2. Summary of medications for motor symptoms in PD*

Medication	Dosages in Milligrams (mg = milligrams; tablets unless otherwise indicated)	Typical Treatment Regimens *	Potential Side Effects	Indications for Usage
<b>Levodopa</b>				
Carbidopa/levodopa immediate-release (Sinemet®)	10/100, 25/100, 25/250	150 – 1000 mg of levodopa total daily dose (divided 3-4 times)	Low blood pressure, nausea, confusion, dyskinesia	<i>Monotherapy or adjunct therapy</i> for slowness, stiffness, and tremor
Carbidopa/levodopa oral disintegrating (Parcopa®)	10/100, 25/100, 25/250	150 – 1000 mg of levodopa total daily dose (divided 3-4 times)	Same as above	Same as above, plus need for dissolvable medication in mouth
Carbidopa/levodopa extended-release (Sinemet CR®)	25/100, 50/200	150 - 1000 mg of levodopa total daily dose (divided 2-4 times)	Same as above	<i>Monotherapy or adjunct therapy</i> for slowness, stiffness, and tremor
Carbidopa/levodopa/entacapone (Stalevo®) <i>See COMT-inhibitors below</i>	12.5/50/200, 25/100/200, 37.5/150/200, 50/200/200	150 - 1000 mg of levodopa total daily dose (divided 3-4 times)	Low blood pressure, nausea, confusion, dyskinesia, plus diarrhea and discolored urine (due to entacapone)	<i>Replacement for carbidopa/levodopa</i> , for motor fluctuations (benefit of entacapone)
<b>Dopamine agonists</b>				
Ropinirole (Requip®)	0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9-24 mg total daily dose, (divided 3-4 times)	Low blood pressure, nausea, leg swelling & discoloration, confusion, sleep attacks, compulsive behavior	<i>Monotherapy or adjunct therapy</i> for slowness, stiffness, and tremor
Pramipexole (Mirapex®)	0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.5	0.5 mg to 1.5 mg total daily dose, (divided 3-4 times)	Same as above	Same as above
Rotigotine** (Neupro®)	2, 4, 6 patch	4-6 mg once daily	Same as above	<i>Monotherapy**</i> for slowness, stiffness, and tremor
Apomorphine (Apokyn®)	30 mg/ 3 ml vial	2 – 6 mg	Significant nausea, must take anti-nausea medication with dose, especially initially with therapy	<i>Adjunct therapy</i> for sudden wearing off



<b>MAO-B inhibitors</b>				
Selegiline (L-deprenyl, Eldepryl®)	5	5 mg twice a day	Agitation, insomnia, vivid dreams, hallucinations; may worsen dyskinesia; possible rare interaction with anti-depressants and other drug classes	<i>Monotherapy</i> for slowness, stiffness, and tremor; <i>adjunct therapy</i> for motor fluctuations
Rasagiline (Azilect®)	0.5, 1.0	1 mg once daily	Same as above	Same as above
Zydis selegiline HCL Oral disintegrating (Zelapar®)	1.25, 2.5	1.25-2.5 mg once daily	Same as above	Same as above
<b>COMT-inhibitors</b>				
Entacapone (Comtan®)	200	200 mg 3 – 4 times daily (with each levodopa dose)	Diarrhea, discolored urine, plus enhancing side effects of levodopa, especially dyskinesia	<i>Adjunct therapy</i> for motor fluctuations
Tolcapone (Tasmar®)	100	100 mg up to 3 times daily	Diarrhea, discolored urine, plus enhancing side effects of levodopa, especially dyskinesia, plus increased risk of liver failure	<i>Adjunct therapy</i> for motor fluctuations (second-line due to side effects)
<b>Other anti-parkinson medications</b>				
Amantadine (Symmetrel®)	100 mg capsules, 50mg/5ml suspension	100 mg 2-3 times daily	Nausea, confusion, leg discoloration (livedo reticularis), mild anti-cholinergic effects (see Anti-cholinergics below)	<i>Monotherapy</i> for slowness, stiffness, and tremor; <i>adjunct therapy</i> for motor fluctuations, especially for dyskinesia
<b>Anti-cholinergics</b>				
Trihexyphenidyl (formerly Artane®)	2, 5	1-2 mg 2 or 3 times daily	Confusion, memory issues, hallucinations, dry mouth, blurry vision, urinary retention	<i>Monotherapy</i> or <i>Adjunct therapy</i> predominantly for tremor in younger people
Benzotropine (Cogentin®)	0.5, 1, 2	0.5 – 2 mg 2 or 3 times daily	Same as above	Same as above

**Key:** *mono therapy* = medication used alone  
*adjunct therapy* = medication added to other medications

\*Typical treatment regimens should act only as a guide. The prescribed dosage by your doctor and your effective dose may vary from these dosages listed.

\*\*Rotigotine removed from the market in 2008; its return uncertain.

