

## Parkinson's Toolkit

## **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
Levodopa				
Carbidopa/levodopa immediate-release (Sinemet®)	10/100, 25/100, 25/250	150 – 1000 mg of levodopa total daily dose (di- vided 3-4 times)	Low blood pressure, nausea, confusion, dyskinesia	Monotherapy or adjunct therapy for slowness, stiffness, and tremor
Carbidopa/levodopa oral disintegrating (Parcopa®)	10/100, 25/100, 25/250	150 – 1000 mg of levodopa total daily dose (di- vided 3-4 times)	Same as above	Same as above, plu 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	Monotherapy or adjunct therapy for slowness, stiffness, and tremor
Carbidopa/levodopa/ entacapone (Stalevo®) See COMT-inhibitors below	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, conflision, dyskinesia, plus diarrhea and discolored urine (due to entacapone)	Replacement for carbidopa/levodopa for motor fluctuations (benefit of entacapone)
Dopamine ago	nists			
Ropinirole (Requip <sup>®</sup> )	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	Monotherapy or adjunct therapy for slowness, stiffness, and tremor
Pramipexole (Mirapex <sup>®</sup> )	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	Monotherapy** 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	Adjunct therapy fo sudden wearing of



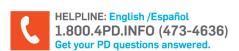




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Selegiline (1-deprenyl, Eldepryl®)	5	5 mg twice a day	Agitation, insomnia, vivid dreams, hallucinations, may worsen dyskinesia; possible rare interaction with anti-depressants and other drug classes	Monotherapy for slowness, stiffness, and tremor; adjunct therapy 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-inhibito</b>	rs			
Entacapone (Comtan®)	200	200 mg 3 – 4 times daily (with each levodopa dose)	Diarrhea, discolored urine, plus enhancing side effects of levodopa, especially dyskinesia	Adjunct therapy 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	Adjunct therapy for motor fluctuations (second-line due to side effects)
Other anti-park	inson med	ications		
Amantadine (Symmetrel®)	100 mg capsules, 50mg/5ml suspension	100 mg 2-3 times daily	Nausea, confusion, leg discoloration (livido reticularis), mild anti-cholinergic effects (see Anti-cholinergics below)	Monotherapy for slowness, stiffness, and tremor, adjunct therapy for motor fluctuations, especiall for dyskinesia
Anti-cholinergio	cs			
Trihexyphenidyl (formerly Artane®)	2, 5	1-2 mg 2 or 3 times daily	Confusion, memory issues, hallucinations, dry mouth, blurry vision, urinary retention	Monotherapy or Adjunct therapy predominantly for tremor in younger people
Benztropine (Cogentin®)	0.5, 1, 2	0.5 – 2 mg 2 or 3 times daily	Same as above	Same as above

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



<sup>\*</sup>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.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Rotigotine removed from the market in 2008; its return uncertain.