

Medications for Non-Motor Symptoms



Parkinson's Disease is often seen as just a movement disorder, but there are many symptoms of PD that are not movement related. These symptoms are called non-motor symptoms. Some of these include cognitive changes, sleep and speech issues or even mood disorders. There are many medications available for the non-motor symptoms of PD, as indicated below. While medication can be beneficial to improve non-motor symptoms, do not forget that exercise and complementary therapies are important too.

Medications for Bladder Control

Alpha-1A blockers, selective

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Alfuzosin (Uroxatral)	10 mg tablets	10 mg once/day	Dizziness, fatigue, headache	Overactive bladder, BPH, Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPA)
Silodosin (Rapaflo)	4 or 8 mg tablets	8 mg once/day with meal	Retrograde ejaculation, dizziness, diarrhea	Overactive bladder, BPH
Tamsulosin (Flomax)	0.4 mg tablets	0.4 mg once/day	Low blood pressure (common with first dose), dizziness, headache, ejaculation failure, runny nose	Overactive bladder, BPH
Terazosin	1, 2, 5, or 10 mg tablets	1–10 mg once/day at bedtime	Low blood pressure, dizziness, swelling,	Overactive bladder, BPH

Anticholinergics

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Darifenacin (Enablex)	7.5 or 15 mg tablets	7.5–15 mg once/day	Dry mouth, constipation, headache	Overactive bladder
Fesoterodine (Toviaz)	4 or 8 mg tablets	4–8 mg once/day	Same as above	Overactive bladder

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Oxybutynin (Ditropan, Ditropan XL, Glenique, Oxytrol)	5 mg tablets XL: 5, 10, or 15 mg tablets 3% and 10% transdermal gel 3.9 mg/24 hour twice weekly patch 1 mg/ml oral syrup	Immediate release tablets: 5 mg 2 or 3 times/day Ditropan XL: 5-30 mg once/day Topical gel: 1 packet or pump once/day	Dizziness, drowsiness, dry mouth, constipation, nausea, confusion	Overactive bladder with or without incontinence
Solifenacin (Vesicare)	5 or 10 mg tablets	5–10 mg once/day	Dry mouth, constipation, dry eyes	Overactive bladder
Tolterodine (Detrol, Detrol LA)	1 or 2 mg tablets Detrol LA: 2 or 4 mg tablets	2 mg twice/day Detrol LA: 4 mg once/day	Dry mouth, constipation, dizziness, drowsiness	Overactive bladder
Trospium (Trosec)	20 mg tablet 60 mg ER tablet	20 mg twice/day ER tablet: 60 mg once/day	Dry mouth, constipation, headache	Overactive bladder

Beta-3 Agonist

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Mirabegron (Mybetriq)	25 or 50 mg tablets	25–50 mg once/day	High blood pressure, constipation, headache	Overactive bladder

Serotonin, Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor (SNRI)

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	20, 30, 40, or 60 mg tablets	20–40 mg twice/day	Nausea, dry mouth, drowsiness, weakness	Stress urinary incontinence



Tricyclic Antidepressants

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Amitriptyline (Elavil)	10, 25, 50, 75, 100, or 150 mg tablets	25 mg once/day at bedtime	Confusion, forgetfulness, hallucinations, lightheadedness, blurred vision, urinary retention, dry mouth	Stress urinary incontinence
Imipramine (Tofranil)	75, 100, 125, or 150 mg capsule 10, 25, or 50 mg tablet	75 mg once/day at bedtime	Confusion, forgetfulness, hallucinations, lightheadedness, blurred vision, urinary retention, dry mouth	Stress urinary incontinence

Medications for Cognitive Changes and Sleep Disorders**Medications to Improve Thinking or manage daytime sleepiness**

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Methylphenidate (Concerta)	18, 27, 36, 54 ER mg tablets	18–54 mg once/day upon waking	Palpitations, high blood pressure, confusion, psychosis, insomnia (if taken too late in day)	Inattentiveness, excessive daytime sleepiness, fatigue
Methylphenidate (Daytrana Patch)	10, 15, 20, or 30 mg patch	10–30 mg patch Apply 1 patch once/day, 2 hours before effect needed. Remove 9 hours after placing patch	Palpitations, high blood pressure, confusion, psychosis, insomnia (if taken too late in day)	Inattentiveness, excessive daytime sleepiness, fatigue
Methylphenidate Hydrochloride ER capsules (Metadate CD)	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 ER mg capsules	20–60 mg once/day upon waking	Palpitations, high blood pressure, confusion, psychosis, insomnia (if taken too late in day)	Inattentiveness, excessive daytime sleepiness, fatigue
Methylphenidate (Methylin)	2.5, 5, 10 mg tablets	5–15 mg 2 or 3 times/day	Palpitations, high blood pressure, confusion, psychosis, insomnia (if taken too late in day)	Inattentiveness, excessive daytime sleepiness, fatigue



Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Memantine (Namenda)	5 or 10 mg tablets 2 mg/ml solution	5–20 mg once/day If more than 5 mg/day, give twice/day.	Dizziness, headache, confusion, constipation, high blood pressure, cough, pain	Parkinson's disease dementia
Armodafinil (Nuvigil)	50, 150, 200, or 250 mg tablets	50–100 mg once/day upon waking	Headache, nausea, nervousness, rhinitis, diarrhea, anxiety, insomnia, dizziness, dyspepsia	Inattentiveness, excessive daytime sleepiness, fatigue, improve wakefulness in OSA
Modafinil (Provigil)	100 or 200 mg tablets	200 mg in the morning	Headache, nausea, nervousness, rhinitis, diarrhea, anxiety, insomnia, dizziness, dyspepsia	Inattentiveness, excessive daytime sleepiness, fatigue, improve wakefulness in OSA
Methylphenidate (Ritalin, Ritalin LA, Ritalin SR)	5, 10, or 20 mg tablets 10 mg/5 ml solution LA: 10, 20, 30, or 40 mg tablets SR: 20 mg tablets	5–15 mg 2 or 3 times/day (may be different for extended release)	Palpitations, high blood pressure, confusion, psychosis, insomnia (if taken too late in day)	Inattentiveness, excessive daytime sleepiness, fatigue

For Sleep Disorders

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Amitriptyline (Elavil)	10, 25, 50, 75, 100, or 150 mg tablets	10–25 mg at bedtime	Confusion, forgetfulness, hallucinations, lightheadedness, blurred vision, urinary retention, dry mouth	Insomnia
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	0.5, 1, or 2 mg tablets 0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1, or 2 mg orally disintegrating tablets	0.25–2 mg taken 30 minutes before bedtime	Drowsiness, lightheadedness, depression, headache, confusion, dizziness, fatigue, constipation, blurred vision	REM Sleep Behavior Disorder (RBD) Also available in orally disintegrating form



Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Doxepin (Silenor)	3, 6, or 10 mg tablets 10 mg/ml oral solution	3–10 mg at bedtime	Confusion, forgetfulness, hallucinations, lightheadedness, blurred vision, urinary retention, dry mouth	Insomnia
Eszopiclone (Lunesta)	1, 2, or 3 mg tablets	2–3 mg at bedtime	Headache, taste disturbance, drowsiness, dizziness	Insomnia
Melatonin	1, 3, 5, or 10 mg tablets	3–10 mg at bedtime or 2–3 hours prior to bedtime	Drowsiness, nausea	Insomnia, RBD
Mirtazapine (Remeron)	7.5, 15, 30, or 45 mg tablets	7.5–15 mg at bedtime	Drowsiness, increased appetite, headache, vivid dreams, lack of sexual side effects	Insomnia Also available in orally disintegrating form
Trazodone (Desyrel)	50, 100, or 150 mg tablets	50–100 mg at bedtime	Nausea, headache, dizziness, insomnia, vivid dreams, sedation, jittery, dry mouth, constipation, diminished libido	Insomnia

Medications for Dementia and Hallucinations in PD

Note: All Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors can cause low heart rate (bradycardia), syncope and heart block. Thus they should be used cautiously in patients with cardiac disease and/or heart conduction abnormalities.

For Dementia

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Donepezil (Aricept)	5, 10, or 23 mg tablets	5–23 mg nightly	Nausea, headache, diarrhea, pain, insomnia, dizziness, muscle cramps, fatigue, bradycardia	Parkinson's disease dementia
Galantamine (Razadyne, Razadyne ER)	4, 8, or 12 mg tablets 4 mg/ml solution ER: 8, 16, or 24 mg tablets	8–12 mg twice/day (may be different for extended release)	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, dizziness, headache, UTI, weight loss, bradycardia	Parkinson's disease dementia



Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Rivastigmine (Exelon, Exelon Patch)	1.5, 3, 4.5, or 6 mg capsules 2 mg/ml solution Patch: 4.6, 9.5 mg patches	1.5–6 mg twice/day Patch: 4.6–9.5 mg once/day	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, indigestion, dizziness, fatigue, bradycardia	Parkinson's disease dementia

For Hallucinations and Psychosis

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Clozapine (Clozaril, FazaClo)	12.5, 25, 50, 100, or 200 mg tablets	50–300 mg twice/day Requires weekly blood tests for low white blood cell counts.	Drowsiness, drooling, tachycardia, dizziness, constipation, low blood pressure, headache. Rarely seizures, heart inflammation and low blood counts	Hallucinations and psychosis
Pimavanserin (Nuplazid)	34 mg capsules 10 mg tablets	34 mg once/day	Swelling of limbs, confusion, hallucination	Hallucinations and delusions associated with Parkinson's disease psychosis
Quetiapine (Seroquel, Seroquel SR)	25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 300, or 400 mg tablets SR: 50, 150, 200, 300, or 400 mg tablets	12.5–100 mg divided daily (may be different for extended release)	Sleepiness, dry mouth, dizziness, tachycardia, low blood pressure, constipation, increased appetite	Hallucinations and psychosis



Medications for Depression and Anxiety in PD

Note: avoid all other typical and atypical anti-psychotics. DO NOT use haloperidol (Haldol).

Benzodiazepines

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Alprazolam (Xanax, Xanax XR, Niravam)	0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, or 3 mg tablets 1 mg/ml solution XR: 0.5, 1, 2, or 3 mg tablets	0.25–1 mg 3–4 times/day (may be different for extended-release)	Drowsiness, lightheadedness, depression, headache, confusion, dizziness, fatigue, constipation, blurred vision	Anxiety/panic Also available in orally disintegrating form.
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1, or 2 mg tablets	0.25–2 mg up to 3 times/day	Drowsiness, lightheadedness, depression, headache, confusion, dizziness, fatigue, constipation, blurred vision	Anxiety/panic Also available in orally disintegrating form.
Diazepam (Valium)	2, 5, or 10 mg tablets 5 mg/5 ml solution	1–5 mg up to 4 times/day	Drowsiness, lightheadedness, depression, headache, confusion, dizziness, fatigue, constipation, blurred vision	Anxiety/panic
Lorazepam (Ativan)	0.5, 1, or 2 mg tablets 2 mg/ml concentrate	0.5–2 mg up to 3 times/day	Drowsiness, lightheadedness, depression, headache, confusion, dizziness, fatigue, constipation, blurred vision	Anxiety/panic

Serotonin/Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq)	50 or 100 mg tablets	50 mg once/day	Nausea, headache, insomnia, vivid dreams, sedation, jittery, dry mouth, constipation, diminished libido	Depression, anxiety



Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	20, 30, or 60 mg capsules	30 mg twice/day	Nausea, headache, insomnia, vivid dreams, sedation, jittery, dry mouth, constipation, diminished libido	Depression, anxiety
Milnacipran(Savella)	12.5, 25, 50, or 100 mg tablets	50 mg twice/day	Nausea, headache, insomnia, vivid dreams, sedation, jittery, dry mouth, constipation, diminished libido	Depression, anxiety
Venlafaxine (Effexor, Effexor XR)	25, 37.5, 50, 75, 100, 150, or 225 mg tablets XR: 37.5, 75, or 150 mg tablets	25–75 mg twice/day (may be different for extended-release)	Nausea, headache, insomnia, vivid dreams, sedation, jittery, dry mouth, constipation, diminished libido	Depression, anxiety

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage (<i>italics = approved by FDA</i>)
Fluoxetine (Prozac)	10, 20, 40, or 90 mg tablets	10–40 mg once/day	Nausea, headache, insomnia, vivid dreams, sedation, jittery, diminished libido	Depression, anxiety/panic, OCD
Sertraline (Zoloft)	25, 50, 100 mg tablets 20 mg/ml concentrate solution	25–200 mg once/day	Nausea, headache, insomnia, vivid dreams, sedation, jittery, diminished libido	Depression, anxiety, OCD

Tricyclic and Related Compounds

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Amitriptyline (Elavil)	10, 25, 50, 75, 100, or 150 mg tablets	10–50 mg nightly	Confusion, forgetfulness, hallucinations, lightheadedness, blurred vision, urinary retention, dry mouth	Depression, anxiety



Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Imipramine (Tofranil, Tofranil PM)	10, 25, or 50 mg tablets PM: 75, 100, 125, or 150 mg tablets	10–50 mg nightly PM: 100 mg max in elderly	Confusion, forgetfulness, hallucinations, lightheadedness, blurred vision, urinary retention, dry mouth	Depression, anxiety
Nortriptyline (Pamelor)	10, 25, 50, or 75 mg capsules 10 mg/5 ml solution	10–50 mg nightly	Confusion, forgetfulness, hallucinations, lightheadedness, blurred vision, urinary retention, dry mouth	Depression, anxiety

Other Anti-Anxiety Medications

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Bupirone (BuSpar)	5, 7.5, 10, 15, or 30 mg tablets	5–15 mg twice/day	Dizziness, drowsiness, dry mouth, nausea, headache	Generalized anxiety disorder
Propranolol (Inderal, Inderal LA, InnoPran XL)	10, 20, 40, 60, or 80 mg tablets 20 mg/5 ml & 40 mg/5 ml solution LA: 60, 80, 120, or 160 mg tablets XL: 80 or 120 mg tablets	10–40 mg up to 3 times/day (may be different for extended-release)	Decreased heart rate, depression, exacerbation of preexisting asthma	Anxiety/panic – can suppress outward signs (like racing heartbeat and shakiness)
Quetiapine (Seroquel)	25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 300, or 400 mg tablets XR: 50, 150, 200, 300, or 400 mg tablets	25–150 mg divided in 1–2 doses (may be different for extended release). Doses above 150–200 mg daily may worsen Parkinson motor symptoms	Sleepiness, dry mouth, dizziness, low blood pressure when standing from seated position, fast heart beat, low blood pressure, constipation, increased appetite, weight gain	Monotherapy or combination therapy for either anxiety or depression



Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Trazodone (Desyrel, Oleptro) also a serotonin modulator	50, 150, or 300 mg tablets	75–300 mg daily (divided)	Same as above	Depression, anxiety

Other Antidepressants

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Bupropion (Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL, Budeprion SR, Budeprion XL, Zyban)	75 or 100 mg tablets SR: 100, 150, or 200 mg tablets XL: 150 or 300 mg tablets	75–450 mg 1–2 times/day (may be different for extended-release)	Dry mouth, insomnia, headache, nausea, constipation, weight neutral, lack of sexual side effects, lowers seizure threshold (especially at doses above 300 mg/day)	Depression
Mirtazapine (Remeron, Remeron SolTab)	7.5, 15, 30, or 45 mg tablets	15–30 mg once/day	Drowsiness, increased appetite, headache, vivid dreams, lack of sexual side effects	Depression Also available in orally disintegrating form

Medications for Excessive Drooling

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Atropine drops	1% ophthalmic solution	Only 1–2 drops under the tongue twice/day	Dry mouth	Excessive drooling
Botulinum toxin A (Xeomin)	100 unit vials	10–100 units injected into parotid and/or submandicular glands	Dry mouth	Excessive drooling
Botulinum toxin B (Myobloc)	100 unit vials	10–100 units injected into parotid and/or submandicular glands	Dry mouth	Excessive drooling
Glycopyrrolate	1, 1.5, or 2 mg tablets. 1 mg/5 ml solution	1–2 mg 2 or 3 times/day as needed	Dry mouth, drowsiness, confusion, vomiting, dizziness, blurred vision, constipation, flushing, headache, urinary retention	Excessive drooling



Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Scopolamine patch	1.5 mg patch	1 patch every 3 days as needed	Dry mouth	Excessive drooling

Medications for Gastrointestinal (GI) Symptoms in PD

Medications for Constipation

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Lubiprostone (Amitiza)	8 or 24 mcg	8–24 mcg twice/day	Bloating, gas, upset stomach, dizziness, chest pain	Constipation
Polyethylene glycol 3350 (MiraLax)	1 capful (17 g) in 4–8 oz water or liquid	Everyday if necessary, may use lower doses for maintenance	Bloating, gas, upset stomach, dizziness, increased sweating	Constipation

Medications for Nausea and Vomiting

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage
Carbidopa (Lodosyn)	25 mg tablets	25–50 mg added to each dose of carbidopa/levodopa	Could worsen dyskinesia	Reduce levodopa induced nausea and vomiting
Domperidone (Motilium) NOTE: not available in the U.S. at this time	10 mg tablets	10 mg up to 4 times/day 15–30 minutes prior to meals	Headache, hives, hot flashes, itching of skin; itching, redness, pain, or swelling of eye	Treat nausea, vomiting, and constipation with increasing emptying of stomach, risk of cardiac issues
Ondansetron (Zofran)	4 or 8 mg tablets	4 mg up to 3 times/day as needed	Headache, malaise/fatigue, constipation, diarrhea	Nausea and vomiting
Trimethobenzamide (Tigan)	300 mg capsule 200 mg suppositories	300 mg up to 4 times/day	Blurred vision, depression, diarrhea, confusion, dizziness, headache, drowsiness, cramps	Treat nausea and vomiting, premedication for Apokyn



Medications for Orthostasis

Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage (<i>italics = approved by FDA</i>)
Pyridostigmine (Mestinon)	30 or 60 mg tablets Oral solution: 60 mg/5 ml Oral syrup (contains alcohol): 60 mg/5 ml Extended release tablet: 180 mg	30–60 mg 2 or 3 times/day	Diarrhea, increase saliva secretions, may have a small, but significant, increase in diastolic blood pressure.	Neurogenic orthostatic hypotension (noH), mild-moderate. Monotherapy or combination therapy to enhance the blood pressure raising effect of midodrine.
Droxidopa* (Northera)	100, 200, or 300 mg oral capsules	100–600 mg 3 times/day Start with 100 mg 3 times/day and increase by 100 mg per dose every 1–2 days as tolerates.	Risk of high blood pressure when lying flat (supine hypertension), which should be monitored carefully, nausea, headache, dizziness	<i>Neurogenic orthostatic hypotension (noH)</i>
Fludrocortisone* (Florinef)	0.1 mg tablets	0.1 mg once/day Note: Dosing higher than 0.1 mg 3 times/day should be avoided.	Leg edema (swelling), high blood pressure when lying flat (supine hypertension), low potassium (monitor)	Neurogenic orthostatic hypotension (noH); Orthostatic Hypotension (oH)
Midodrine* (ProAmatine)	2.5, 5, or 10 mg tablets	2.5–10 mg 2 or 3 times/day Note: No more than 20 mg per dose or total daily dose above 40 mg/day.	Higher chance of developing high blood pressure while lying flat (supine hypertension) with midodrine than fludrocortisone; itching (itchy scalp), urinary retention, headache	Neurogenic orthostatic hypotension (noH); <i>Orthostatic Hypotension, symptomatic</i>



Medication (product name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment Regimens	Common Side Effects	Indications for Usage (<i>italics</i> = approved by FDA)
<p>*= Patients taking droxidopa, fludrocortisone, and/or midodrine should NOT lay down flat during the day due to risk of too high of blood pressure lying down (supine hypertension). They may use a recliner during the day. The last dose of droxidopa, fludrocortisone, and/or midodrine should be at least 3–4 hours before bedtime to reduce risk of supine hypertension. In most patients it is recommend to elevate the head of bed (by 10–20 degrees or by 4–12 inches) to reduce risk of supine hypertension. Do not use pillows as this is inadequate and can worsen stomach absorption of medications by bending patients at the waist. Patients may be required to monitor blood pressures sitting, standing, and/or when first awaking in the morning.</p>				

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