

Medications for Non-Motor Symptoms



Parkinson's disease (PD) has both motor and non-motor symptoms. Among the non-motor symptoms of PD are cognitive changes, constipation, sleep issues and mood disorders. Some non-motor symptoms may improve with an adjustment to your Parkinson's medication. Exercise, dietary modifications, psychotherapy and other supportive therapies are also key to managing the non-motor symptoms of PD. In addition, there are medications available to help address these symptoms.

Important: This medication table is designed as a companion insert to be used with the book *Medications: A Treatment Guide to Parkinson's*. Download your copy of this book at Parkinson.org/Library.

Although this is a comprehensive list of non-motor medications, it is not all-inclusive.

Medications for Depression and Anxiety in PD

Your pharmacist may alert you to a hypothetical risk of combining antidepressants and MAO-B inhibitors (selegiline or rasagiline). Discuss this risk with your doctor.

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Citalopram (Celexa)	10, 20 or 40 mg tablets 10 mg/2 mL solution	10–40 mg once/day	Headache, nausea, diarrhea, drowsiness, insomnia, dry mouth, sweating, jitteriness, decreased sex drive, weight gain or loss	Depression and anxiety
Escitalopram (Lexapro)	5, 10 or 20 mg tablets	10–20 mg once/day	Same as above	Same as above
Fluoxetine (Prozac)	10, 20 or 40 mg capsules 10, 20 or 60 mg tablets 20 mg/5 mL oral solution	10–60 mg once/day	Same as above	Same as above

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Sertraline (Zoloft)	25, 50 or 100 mg tablets 20 mg/mL oral concentrate	25–200 mg once/day	Headache, nausea, diarrhea, drowsiness, insomnia, dry mouth, sweating, jitteriness, decreased sex drive, weight gain or loss	Depression and anxiety

Serotonin/Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq)	25, 50 or 100 mg ER tablets	50 mg once/day	Nausea, dry mouth, dizziness, headache, excessive sweating, constipation, trouble sleeping and decreased sex drive	Depression and anxiety
Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	20, 30, 40 or 60 mg capsules	30–60 mg once/day	Same as above plus may worsen liver problems	Same as above
Venlafaxine (Effexor, Effexor XR)	25, 37.5, 50, 75 or 100 mg tablets XR: 37.5, 75, 150 or 225 mg tablets	25–75 mg twice/day XR: 75–150 mg once/day	Same as above plus may raise blood pressure	Same as above

Tricyclic Antidepressants

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Amitriptyline (Elavil)	10, 25, 50, 75, 100 or 150 mg tablets	25–50 mg once/day at bedtime	Dry mouth, dizziness, drowsiness, headache, blurred vision, confusion, constipation, nausea and urinary retention	Depression and anxiety
Nortriptyline (Pamelor)	10, 25, 50 or 75 mg capsules 10 mg/5 mL oral solution	25–150 mg once/day	Same as above	Same as above

Other Antidepressants

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Mirtazapine (Remeron, Remeron SolTab)	7.5, 15, 30 or 45 mg tablets SolTab: 15, 30 or 45 mg orally disintegrating tablets	15–30 mg once/day at bedtime	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased appetite, weight gain, constipation and vivid dreams; low risk of sexual side effects	Depression and anxiety



Other Antidepressants

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Bupropion (Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL and others)	75 or 100 mg tablets SR: 100, 150 or 200 mg tablets XL: 150 or 300 mg tablets	75–150 mg 3 times/day SR: 150 mg twice/day XL: 150–300 mg once/day	Dry mouth, trouble sleeping, headache, nausea, constipation, confusion, dizziness and weight loss	Depression and anxiety

Benzodiazepines

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
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 up to 3 times/day	Drowsiness, tiredness, lightheadedness, depression, headache, confusion, dizziness and blurred vision	Anxiety
Alprazolam (Xanax, Xanax XR)	0.25, 0.5, 1, 2 or 3 mg tablets 1 mg/mL oral solution XR: 0.5, 1, 2 or 3 mg tablets	0.25–1 mg 3–4 times/day XR: 0.5–6 mg once/day	Same as above	Same as above
Diazepam (Valium)	2, 5 or 10 mg tablets 5 mg/5 mL oral solution	1–5 mg up to 4 times/day	Same as above	Same as above
Lorazepam (Ativan)	0.5, 1 or 2 mg tablets 2 mg/mL oral concentrate	0.5–2 mg up to 3 times/day	Same as above	Same as above

Other Anti-Anxiety Medications

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Bupirone (BuSpar)	5, 7.5, 10, 15 or 30 mg tablets	5–15 mg twice/day	Dizziness, drowsiness, dry mouth, nausea and headache	Anxiety
Propranolol (Inderal and others)	10, 20, 40, 60 or 80 mg tablets 20 mg/5 mL or 40 mg/5 mL solution	10–40 mg up to 3 times/day as needed	Decreased heart rate, depression and worsening of preexisting asthma	Same as above



Medications for Dementia in PD

Note: Donepezil, galantamine and rivastigmine — all acetylcholinesterase inhibitors — can cause slow heart rate (bradycardia), abnormal heart rhythm, fainting due to a drop in blood pressure and heart block (heart rhythm disorder).

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Donepezil (Aricept, Aricept ODT)	5, 10 or 23 mg tablets 5 or 10 mg orally disintegrating tablets	5–23 mg once/day at bedtime	Nausea, headache, diarrhea, vomiting, insomnia, dizziness, muscle cramps and slow heart rate	Dementia
Galantamine (Razadyne, Razadyne ER)	4, 8 or 12 mg tabs 4 mg/mL oral solution ER: 8, 16 or 24 mg capsules	8–12 mg twice/day ER: 16–24 mg once/day	Same as above	Same as above
Rivastigmine (Exelon)	1.5, 3, 4.5 or 6 mg capsules 4.6, 8.5 or 13.3 mg/24-hour patch	1.5–6 mg twice/day Patch: Apply 1 patch once/day	Same as above	Same as above
Memantine (Namenda, Namenda XR)	5 or 10 mg tablets 2 mg/mL oral solution XR: 7, 14, 21 or 28 mg tablets	5–20 mg once/day (If more than 5 mg/day, give twice/day) XR: 7–28 mg once/day	Dizziness, headache, confusion and constipation	Same as above

Medications for Psychosis

Medications for psychosis for Parkinson's disease are often different than typical treatments, as some medications are contraindicated for people with Parkinson's. Consult with a Parkinson's specialist and view materials from the Aware in Care kit (visit Parkinson.org/AwareinCare) for information on medications to avoid.

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

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Clozapine (Clozaril, FazaClo, Versacloz)	Clozaril: 25, 50, 100 or 200 mg tablets FazaClo: 12.5, 25, 100, 150 or 200 mg orally disintegrating tablets Versacloz: 50 mg/mL oral suspension	12.5–50 mg once or twice/day	Drowsiness, drooling, tachycardia (fast heart rate), dizziness, constipation, low blood pressure, headache Blood tests for white blood cell counts required	Psychosis (hallucinations and delusions)
Pimavanserin (Nuplazid)	34 mg capsules	34 mg once/day	Nausea, swelling of limbs and confusion	Same as above



Medications for Psychosis

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Quetiapine (Seroquel, Seroquel XR)	25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 300 or 400 mg tablets XR: 50, 150, 200, 300 or 400 mg tablets	12.5–100 mg once or twice/day; Doses above 150–200 mg/day may worsen PD motor symptoms	Sleepiness, dry mouth, dizziness, low blood pressure, stomach pain and weight gain	Psychosis (hallucinations and delusions)

Medications to Improve Alertness and Manage Daytime Sleepiness

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Methylphenidate (Ritalin, Methylin and others)	Ritalin: 5, 10 or 20 mg tablets Methylin: 5mg/5 mL or 10 mg/5 mL oral solution	5–15 mg 2 or 3 times/day	Rapid or irregular heart rate, palpitations, headache, trouble sleeping (if taken too late in the day), increased sweating, weight loss, dry mouth, nausea and stomach pain	Inattentiveness, excessive daytime sleepiness and tiredness
Armodafinil (Nuvigil)	50, 150, 200 or 250 mg tablets	50–100 mg once/day in the morning	Headache, nausea, dizziness, trouble sleeping, anxiety, diarrhea and dry mouth	Same as above
Modafinil (Provigil)	100 or 200 mg tablets	200 mg once/day in the morning	Same as above	Same as above

Medications for Sleep Disorders

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	0.5, 1 or 2 mg tablets 0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1 or 2 mg orally disintegrating tablets	3–10 mg once/day at bedtime	Drowsiness, tiredness, lightheadedness, depression, headache, confusion, dizziness and blurred vision	REM Sleep Behavior Disorder (RBD)
Melatonin Over-the-counter drug	1, 3, 5 or 10 mg tablets	3–10 mg once/day	Drowsiness and nausea	Insomnia, RBD
Mirtazapine (Remeron)	7.5, 15, 30 or 45 mg tablets	7.5–15 mg once/day at bedtime	Drowsiness, increased appetite, headache and vivid dreams	Insomnia



Medications for Sleep Disorders

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Trazodone (Desyrel)	50, 100, 150 or 300 mg tablets	50–100 mg once/day at bedtime	Nausea, dry mouth, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue, headache, blurry vision	Insomnia

Medications for Orthostatic Hypotension (postural low blood pressure)

Those taking droxidopa, fludrocortisone and/or midodrine should NOT lay down flat during the day due to risk of elevated blood pressure (supine hypertension). The last dose of these medications should be taken at least 3–4 hours before bedtime to reduce risk. In most people with PD it is recommended to elevate the head of the bed by 4–12 inches to reduce risk. Do not use pillows as this is inadequate and can worsen stomach absorption of medications by creating a bend at the waist. People with PD may be required to monitor blood pressures sitting, standing and/or in the morning after waking up.

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Droxidopa (Northera)	100, 200 or 300 mg capsules	100–600 mg 3 times/day	Risk of high blood pressure when lying flat, nausea, headache and dizziness	Orthostatic hypotension
Fludrocortisone (Florinef)	0.1 mg tablets	0.1 mg once/day	Leg swelling, risk of high blood pressure when lying flat and low potassium	Same as above
Midodrine (ProAmatine)	2.5, 5 or 10 mg tablets	2.5–10 mg every 8 hours	Risk of high blood pressure when lying flat, itchy scalp, urinary retention and headache	Same as above

Medications for Gastrointestinal (GI) Symptoms in PD

Medications for Constipation

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Lubiprostone (Amitiza)	8 or 24 mcg capsules	8–24 mcg twice/day	Bloating, gas, upset stomach, dizziness and chest pain	Constipation
Polyethylene glycol 3350 (MiraLax) Over-the-counter drug	1 capful (17 g) in 4–8 oz water	Once/day if necessary, may use lower doses for maintenance	Bloating, gas, diarrhea, nausea and abdominal pain	Same as above
Linacotide (Linzess)	72 or 145 mcg capsules	72 or 145 mcg once/day	Diarrhea, headache, abdominal pain, gas	Chronic idiopathic constipation (idiopathic=no known cause)



Medications for Nausea and Vomiting

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Carbidopa (Lodosyn)	25 mg tablets	25–50 mg added to each dose of carbidopa/levodopa	Could worsen dyskinesia	Levodopa-induced nausea and vomiting
Domperidone (Motilium) Not available in the US at this time	10 mg tablets	10 mg up to 3 times/day prior to meals	Headache, hives, hot flashes and dry eyes	Nausea, vomiting and constipation
Ondansetron (Zofran and others)	4 or 8 mg tablets	4–8 mg up to 3 times/day as needed	Headache, tiredness, constipation and diarrhea	Nausea and vomiting

Medications for Bladder Control**Alpha Blockers**

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Tamsulosin (Flomax)	0.4 mg ER tablets	0.4–0.8 mg once/day with a meal	Low blood pressure, dizziness, headache, ejaculation failure and runny nose	Difficulty urinating due to enlarged prostate (benign prostatic hyperplasia [BPH])
Terazosin (Hytrin)	1, 2, 5 or 10 mg tablets	1–10 mg once/day at bedtime	Low blood pressure, dizziness and swelling	Same as above

Antimuscarinics/Anticholinergics for Bladder Control

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Oxybutynin (Ditropan, Ditropan XL, Oxytrol)	5 mg tablets or 5mg/mL oral solution XL: 5, 10 or 15 mg ER tablets Oxytrol: 3.9 mg/24-hour patch	2.5–5 mg 2 or 3 times/day XL: 5–30 mg once/day Oxytrol: Apply 1 patch twice/week	Dizziness, drowsiness, dry mouth, constipation, nausea and confusion	Overactive bladder
Solifenacin (Vesicare)	5 or 10 mg tablets	5–10 mg once/day	Dry mouth, constipation and dry eyes	Same as above



Antimuscarinics/Anticholinergics for Bladder Control

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Tolterodine (Detrol, Detrol LA)	1 or 2 mg tablets LA: 2 or 4 mg ER tablets	2 mg twice/day LA: 4 mg once/day	Dry mouth, constipation, dizziness and drowsiness	Overactive bladder

Beta-3 Agonists for Bladder Control

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Mirabegron (Myrbetriq)	25 or 50 mg ER tablets	25–50 mg once/day	High blood pressure and headache	Overactive bladder

Medications for Excessive Drooling

Medication (brand name in parentheses)	Dosages	Typical Treatment	Common Side Effects	Usage in Parkinson's
Atropine drops	1% ophthalmic solution	1–2 drops under the tongue twice/day	Dry mouth	Excessive drooling
Botulinum toxin A (Xeomin)	50-, 100- or 200-unit vials	10–100 units injected	Same as above	Same as above
Botulinum toxin B (Myobloc)	2,500 units/0.5 mL 5,000 units/mL 10,000 units/2 mL	1,500–3,500 units injected	Same as above	Same as above
Glycopyrrolate (Glycate, Cuvposa)	Glycate: 1, 1.5 or 2 mg tablets Cuvposa: 1 mg/ 5 mL solution	1–2 mg 2 or 3 times/day as needed	Dry mouth, drowsiness, confusion, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, blurred vision, constipation, flushing, headache and urinary retention	Same as above
Scopolamine (Transderm Scop)	1.5 mg patch	Apply 1 patch behind the ear, at least 4 hours before effect is needed. Replace every 3 days.	Same as above	Same as above

The Parkinson's Foundation offers free resources to help you navigate Parkinson's. Access our wide variety of publications, including our book, *Medications*, at [Parkinson.org/Library](https://www.parkinson.org/Library).

Call our Helpline at 1-800-4PD-INFO (1-800-473-4636) for more information and resources.