

Drug Therapy & Nursing Interventions

Dopamine agonists:
mimic dopamine
pramipexole(Mirapex)
Monitor for orthostatic hypotension,
hallucinations, sleepiness

Combination drug: levadopa-carbidopa (Sinemet) Teach to take drug before meals

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Catechol O-methyltransferases (COMTs) inhibitors: entacapone (Comtran)

-increases the availability of levadopa in the brain -used in combination with levodopa

Monitor liver function

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Monoamine oxidase type B (MAO-B) inhibitors:

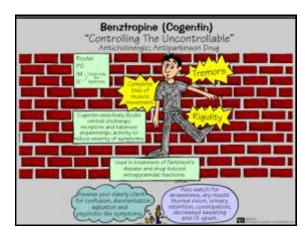




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Other Drugs:

- amantadine(Symmetrel):antiviral that has anti-Parkinson benefits
- -benztropine(Cogentin): sometimes used to treat severe motor symptoms; not recommeded in older adults



Drug Toxicity

- Long-term drug therapy regimens often cause cognitive impairment, decreased effectiveness of the drug
- Reduce medication dose.
- Change medications or frequency of administration.
- Take "drug holiday," especially in the use of levodopa therapy.

TREATMENT CONTINUED

- "on-off" phenomenon gradual worsening of symptoms as medication begins to lose effectiveness
- "Drug Holiday" when levodopa no longer working effectively (usually 10-day period of hospitalization)

Surgical Management

- Surgical management includes:
 - Stereotactic pallidotomy/thalamotomy
 - Deep brain stimulation-most common surgical procedure to treat PD
 - > Fetal tissue transplantation

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